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## Emerge Kentucky Announces Class of 2019

**Louisville, KY:** Emerge Kentucky is proud to announce the members of the Class of 2019, as it enters its 10<sup>th</sup> year of training Democratic women to run for office. A cohort of 30 women, the 2019 participants hail from all across the Commonwealth, including 16 different counties; five of which are Emerge “firsts” - Breathitt, Breckinridge, Grayson, Scott, and Knox counties.

Each year Emerge seeks to broaden its impact by expanding its network throughout the state. This year, three participants are from eastern Kentucky and nine are from western Kentucky. Emerge has also expanded geographically to include a training in Berea for the first time. Dates of receptions and trainings can be found on the website: <https://ky.emergeamerica.org/training/signature-program/>.

Executive Director Blair Haydon is ready to get things started. “Training women is truly my favorite part of this job,” said Haydon. “We transform the lives of Kentucky women by giving them the tools to progress as leaders. That all starts at the end of this month.”

Founder and Board Chair of Emerge Kentucky Jennifer A. Moore has the vantage point of watching the organization enter its 10<sup>th</sup> year. “Emerge has taken leaps and bounds since we started our first training program,” said Moore. “Each year we have seen demonstrable growth, and women step up from all across the Commonwealth. In the 2018 Midterm Election, we increased the number of Emerge-trained women in the state house from two to seven. Now, 35 alumnae hold elected offices throughout the state and no doubt we will see great things from the 30 women in this year’s class.”

Emerge alumnae had a very successful Midterm-Election in 2018, with a total of 27 wins altogether and a number of “historic firsts” for the organization and Kentucky with the elections of:

- Representative Nima Kulkarni, who is the first Indian-American to serve in the General Assembly;
- Mayor Beverly Chester-Burton, who is the first African-American Mayor of Shively; and
- Kathryn Thomas, who is the first Emerge county attorney win and the first woman to hold that office in Barren County.

With each election that comes to pass, the work of Emerge Kentucky adds diversity to local and state government and dismantles the barriers for women, and particularly, women of color, from running for office.

Orientation for the Class of 2019 begins on January 25<sup>th</sup> in Louisville.

## Emerge Class of 2019 Participants

Sarah Adkins, Fayette County  
Martha Amerson, Warren County  
Pat Banks, Madison County  
Caratha Buckner, Christian County  
LuTisha Buckner, Jefferson County  
Paula Clemons Combs, Breathitt County  
Stephanie Compton, Spencer County  
Katina Cummings, Jefferson County  
Sheri Donahue, Jefferson County  
Christa Dubrock, McCracken County  
Lacretia Dye, Warren County  
Claire Estill, Mason County  
Dora Sue Farmer, Knox County  
Willow Hambrick, Scott County  
Heather Harrell, Jefferson County

Mary Beth Jewell, Knox County  
Tracy Jones, McCracken County  
MacLean Lessenberry, Barren County  
Maurie McGarvey, McCracken County  
Tanya Meeks, Fayette County  
Kiley Milliner, Grayson County  
Jessica Faye Mohler, Fayette County  
Brittany Martin, Scott County  
Ashlea Shepherd Porter, Warren County  
Tara Wise Sawvel, McCracken County  
Diane Seaman, Oldham County  
Maddie Shepard, Jefferson County  
Whitney L. Stepp, Woodford County  
Kimberly Conder Storms, Breckenridge County  
Meagan Thompson, Scott County

This list can also be found online at: <https://ky.emergeamerica.org/2019-class/>

*Emerge Kentucky is the premier candidate training program for Democratic women. We inspire women to run and we hone their skills to win. Our goal is clear: to increase the number of Democratic women in public office.*

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