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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****March 21, 2018** | **CONTACT: Kaisee Riddell****859-749-84007****kaisee\_riddell@mymail.eku.edu** |

**Register Now for the**

**2018 East Kentucky Leadership Conference**

**HINDMAN, KY—**Register now for the 31st annual East Kentucky Leadership Conference. This year’s conference will take place April 26-27 at Hindman Settlement School in Hindman, Kentucky. The theme is “The New Economy: Building on Our Cultural Heritage.”

The East Kentucky Leadership Conference is a place for people from all walks of life to gather, network and share ideas and perspectives about issues relevant to the region.

The keynote speaker for the 2018 East Kentucky Leadership Conference awards banquet is Ronni Lundy, esteemed author and editor of traditional American cookbooks. Her book *Victuals: An Appalachian Journey* received the 2017 James Beard Cookbook of the Year Award and International Association of Culinary Professionals 2017 Award for Best American Cookbook.

“Everyone can exercise leadership by taking part in building a brighter future for our region,” Peter Hille, chair of the East Kentucky Leadership Foundation board, said.

Participants can register online at eklf.org. The cost for registration is $50 for regular registration and $25 for students. Any person or group aspiring to take on a leadership role in Eastern Kentucky is encouraged to attend. Registration includes all sessions, dinner at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 26, and continental breakfast and lunch on Friday, April 27.

Additional information is available at eklf.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, contact Bill Weinberg at halcyonpapa@gmail.com or 606-785-0761, or Paul Collins at pcollins@hollonlaw.com or 606-439-1302.

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*Founded in 1988, the East Kentucky Leadership Foundation was created to promote leadership in Eastern Kentucky. Now in its 31st year, EKLF continues to encourage leadership development, communication and collaboration throughout the Eastern Kentucky region.*