



# **2026**

# **Annual Report**

# **Kentucky Academy of Science**

# Our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

- Support Scientific Research in Kentucky
- Advocate for Evidence-Based and Science-Based Policy
- Contribute to improving science education, including K-12 Education
- Increase Member engagement
- Increase Public Engagement and Visibility
- Celebrate and Grow our Partnerships

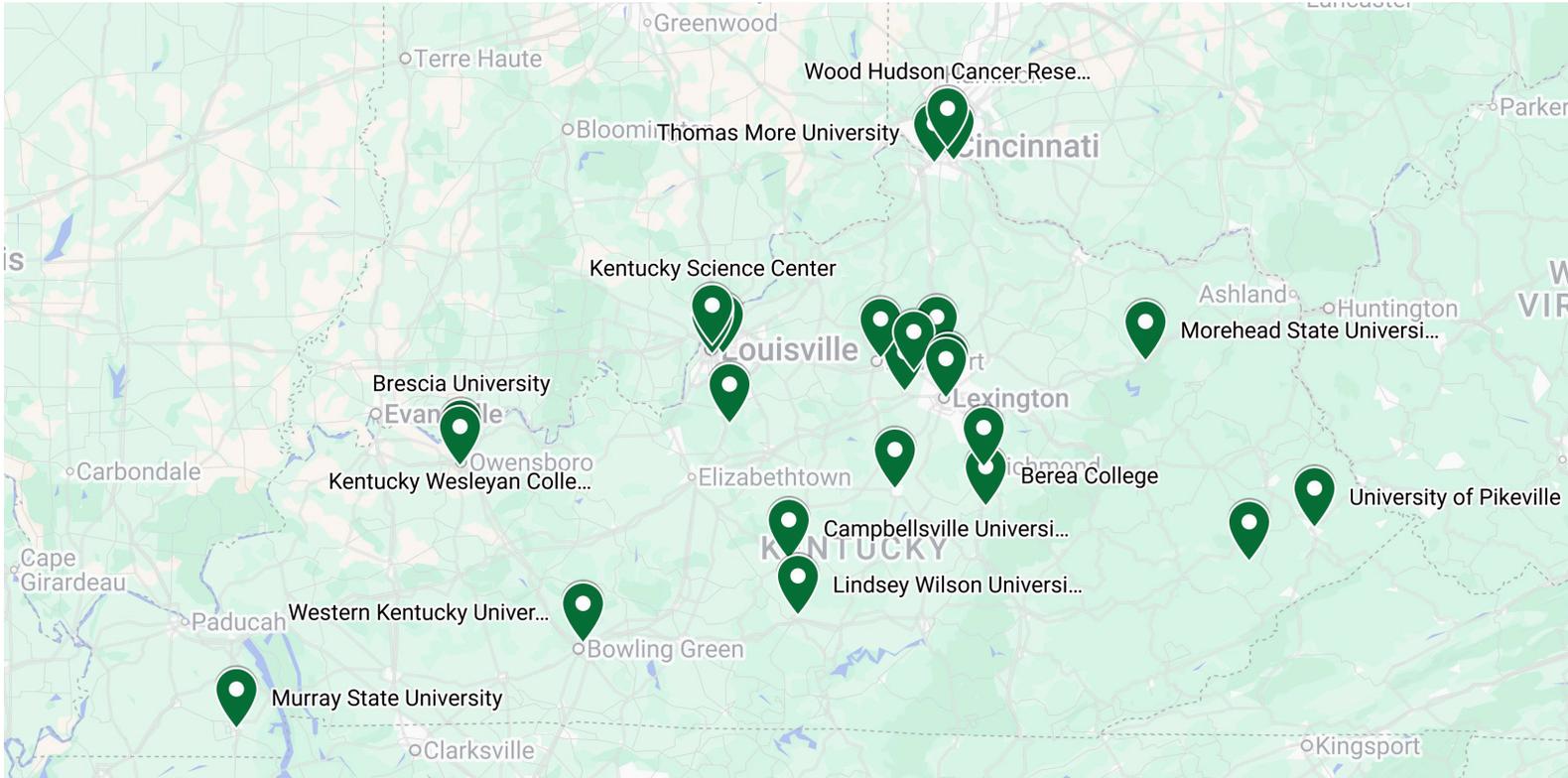
## 2025 Milestones

- KAS' Annual Meeting convened 720 scientists at the University of Louisville for the biggest science event in Kentucky
- We were awarded \$10,000 from Ky-NSF EPSCoR for "Opening STEM Pathways in Kentucky through Climate Resilience"
- We published a Summer STEM Camp Directory & awarded 9 STEM camp scholarships to families requesting financial assistance
- Our Sharing Your Science series highlights examples of impactful research in Kentucky
- We offered numerous professional and career development opportunities throughout the year in science communication, science policy, and research funding.
- We launched a new Early Career Professional Development award
- KAS membership continued to grow - we now have 5200+ members across the Commonwealth



# Membership Growth

We are proud to have more than 5200 member scientists spanning across the entire state of KY, as shown in the map below. All academic affiliates maintained or grew their membership from 2023 to 2025. In addition to our academic partners, we celebrate Bernheim Forest & Arboretum, and Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory as KAS affiliates.



# Kentucky Science Speakers Bureau



Our Speakers Bureau now includes 383 Graduate and Professional member scientists of all disciplines. KAS scientists volunteer to speak to civic groups, libraries, government, media, teachers, or after-school STEM clubs. We fulfill requests from educators, librarians and others.

## Communicating Science in Kentucky

We train KAS members to communicate effectively and advocate for science, so that we can connect with policymakers and fellow Kentuckians, about public health, the environment, technology and more. Melissa Dougherty, our Science Communication Specialist (and chemistry professor) keeps members up to date and highlights the important work our members are doing. Check out our Sharing Your Science Series she worked on with Dr. Wilson Gonzalez-Espada. Check out our YouTube Channel for videos highlighting the work of Kentucky scientists. If you'd like us to highlight something you're working on, email us or give us a call!

KAS members volunteer on our Education & Engagement committee and our Science Policy committee which meet monthly. Our member scientists also produce Bench Talk: The Week in Science, a podcast and weekly radio show. Listen 3 times weekly or catch all the episodes at [forwardradio.org](http://forwardradio.org).



### Sharing Your Science

Featuring innovation from across the Commonwealth.

#### Can Coal Ash be used as a Source of Rare Earth Metals?

Read the full story at [kyscience.org/sharing\\_your\\_science](http://kyscience.org/sharing_your_science)



Dr. John Groppo (left) and the research team at the University of Kentucky's Center for Applied Energy Research receive fly ash for their investigation. The inset shows spherical fly ash particles at 2,000x magnification. Credit: Dr. James Hower (fly ash delivery); U.S. Department of Transportation/Wikimedia Commons (inset).

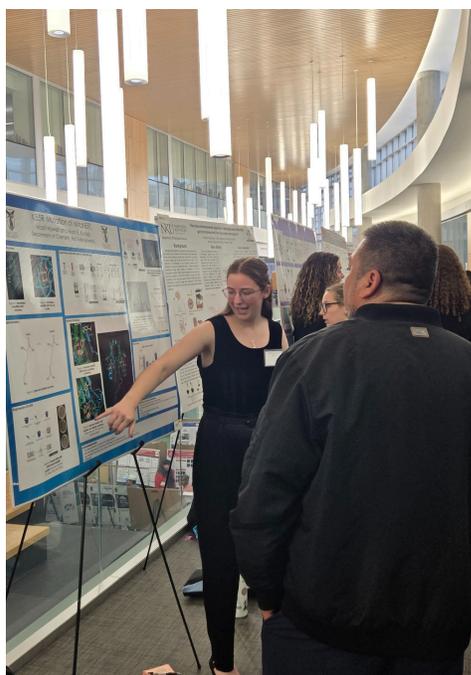


# KAS Annual Meeting and Junior Academy of Science

The University of Louisville hosted 720 attendees at our 2025 Annual meeting, and participants packed the room to hear Dr. Joel Brown's captivating keynote. The full online program, including abstracts, is available at [www.kyscience.org](http://www.kyscience.org).

We are sending seven high school scientists to the American Junior Academy of Science in February to meet peers and share their research.

Murray State University will host the 2026 KAS & KJAS Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!



**Congressional District 1:**  
**Malleshwar Jayaraman Suresh**, *Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science*



**Congressional District 2:**  
**Agastya Mishra**, *duPont Manual H.S.*  
**Pratham Tippi (District 3)**, *duPont Manual H.S.*



**Congressional District 3:**  
**Ajay Sutaria**, *duPont Manual H.S.*  
**Chaturya Paladugu**, *duPont Manual H.S.*



**Congressional District 4:**  
**Tadinada Gopalaniket**, *North Oldham H.S.*

**Congressional District 6:**  
**Chris Gachagua**, *Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science*

# KAS Grants

KAS members are eligible for several categories of grants. In 2025, we awarded a total of \$27,332 to KAS members. Awardees are listed at [www.kyscience.org](http://www.kyscience.org).

## **The Athey Science Education & Outreach Grant**

funds science education materials, supplies, or programming for elementary and secondary schools in Kentucky.

## **The Marcia Athey Fund and Botany Fund**

supports student research at Kentucky colleges and universities.

## **Special Research Grants**

are for faculty in Kentucky higher education institutions focused on undergraduate education.

**The Undergraduate Research Grant** funds research planned and conducted by undergraduate students of Kentucky colleges and universities.

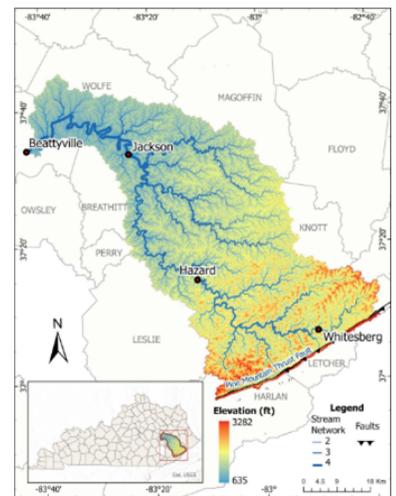


# Journal of the Kentucky Academy of Science

Our all-digital format and Issue-in Progress publishing model means rapid publication and no page charges. KAS members and affiliate institutions receive free access to all issues of the Journal, at our website or through BioOne. Submit a manuscript at [kyscience.org](http://kyscience.org).

## Stay Up to Date

Our monthly news includes events, jobs, funding, member highlights, and policy updates. KAS Affiliates can submit job postings and announcements. We also keep members up to date via Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



*Pahari and Gani, 2025*





The mission of the Kentucky Academy of Science is to catalyze scientific communication and collaboration that will improve research, education, and evidence-based public engagement within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We are pleased to have you as an affiliate and look forward to continuing to serve your institution and your members.

## Contact Us

-  (502) 762-3472
-  PO Box 806  
Louisville, KY 40201  
kyscience.org  
executivedirector@kyscience.org

## Connect with Us



@Kentucky Academy of  
Science



@kentuckyscience



@kyscientists



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