

# Positively UC

*A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day*



DEC. 19, 2025

Vol. 6 Issue 43

## HERALD, ACKERMAN RECOGNIZED FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE



During the recent annual meeting of UCDD and UCHRA, agency leadership came together to celebrate a year filled with notable progress, regional collaboration, and dedicated service across the 14-county area.

In addition to acknowledging the overall achievements of the agencies over the past year, two outstanding employees, who embody excellence and teamwork, were honored for their contributions to both their workplace and the 14-county region.

The UC Spirit Award, which recognizes an employee's unwavering commitment and volunteer spirit, was awarded to Jordan Herald, UCCHRA Community Services Assistant Director.

The Diamond Award, which highlights servant leadership and mentorship, was presented to Marcie Ackerman, UCDD Planning and Community Development Assistant Director.

*Congratulations, Jordan and Marcie!*

## UCDD, UCHRA CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As 2025 winds down and with the holiday season in full swing, staff at both UCDD and UCHRA have taken time out of their busy schedules to celebrate the season with team members. *Be sure to check out pages 3 and 4 for more photos from this merry and bright season!*





## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS DURING UCDD-UCHRA ANNUAL MEETING

The Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) and Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) gathered for their annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 17, celebrating a year of significant progress, regional partnership, and dedicated service across the 14-county region.

“2025 has been a year of real progress,” said Chairman Jeff Mason. “We strengthened core services for seniors and families, expanded transportation access for work and health care, and helped communities plan for growth.

“We’ve improved coordination between programs and kept our focus on people. When a neighbor needs a hot meal, a safe ride, a path to work, or help navigating benefits, UCDD and UCHRA are there. The data matters, but what matters most are the lives behind those numbers. These agencies continue to deliver with compassion and professionalism in all 14 counties.”

The Executive Director’s Report included a year-in-review presentation that celebrated the agencies’ accomplishments and emphasized the servant leadership of their more than 440 employees.

“As we look ahead, it’s only natural to take a moment to think about where we’ve been, and I have to say, the progress we’ve made together is remarkable,” Mark Farley, UCDD and UCHRA Executive Director, said.

A central focus of the event was the celebration of individuals whose dedication embodies the spirit of the Upper Cumberland.

*To read more about the event, including a full list of the 2025 Stars of the Upper Cumberland, visit [uchra.org/news](http://uchra.org/news) or visit our YouTube channel, UC Connect, to view the video from the 2025 annual meeting.*

### WHO WE ARE

#### OUR MISSION

*To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.*

#### OUR VISION

*A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.*

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