

Instructor Biographies

Jimmy Blandford – Primary Instructor

A native of Owensboro, Kentucky, James (“Jimmy”) received a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Louisville. He has worked in financial services, public accounting, asset management, insurance and manufacturing. Jimmy’s focus is providing tax, accounting and advisory services to individuals and businesses with a proactive and progressive approach.

Stacey Huff – Primary Instructor

Stacey is a Louisville native who graduated from Bellarmine College, cum laude, with a degree in Accounting. More than 30 years of her career have been spent in the public accounting sector. In addition to her focus on individual and business taxation, Stacey also has significant experience in both the Affordable Care Act compliance reporting as well as tax reporting and consulting for not-for-profit organizations.

Laura Powers – Agricultural Issues

Laura Powers is a Farm Business Analysis Specialist with the Pennyroyal Farm Analysis Group, located in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. As a Farm Business Analysis Specialist, she works closely with many farms on a variety of issues, such as recordkeeping and payroll support, as well as compiling a full range of accrual financial statements and tax planning. Laura is the state director for Kentucky on the National Association for Farm Business Analysis Specialists, and previously served a three-year term as President of the Association. She has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky.

Jonathan Shepherd – Agricultural Specialist & State Director

Jonathan Shepherd is the Director of the UK Income Tax Seminar Program and an instructor in the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky. Jonathan assists farm owners with farm management decision-making and conducts UK Extension education programming throughout Kentucky. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Farm Financial Standards Council and is the Vice President of the Franklin County Farm Bureau. He teaches undergraduate Farm Management Principles at UK. Jonathan holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky.

Jessica Martin – KY Department of Revenue

Jessica Martin is a Policy/Research Consultant with the Division of Individual Income Tax at the Kentucky Department of Revenue. Mrs. Martin received a business and accounting degree from Kentucky State University in 2009. She began with the Department of Revenue as a corporate tax auditor in 2010.