In 2006, UK began the Commonwealth Collaboratives. To date, 47 Collaboratives impacting Kentucky's needs in health, education, economic development, environment and natural resources, and culture/quality of life have been funded. Since its inception, the University has put approximately $450,000 into these initiatives. Effective 2010, the Collaboratives have been associated with securing approximately $48 million in external funding.

Starting in late 2006, UK began implementing the UK Engagement Measurement Instrument in cooperation with national leader Michigan State University. Each year since then, the number of UK people reporting engagement activity has increased, reaching 942 in 2010. We are now approaching the 2014 UK Strategic Plan Goal 5 goal of 1,000 people responding to the survey. UK continues to develop the reporting end of this instrument. Local UK advances in the effort have moved us more into a collaborative relationship with MSU. On that basis, we have never paid the $7,000+ annual charge for use of the instrument.

In November 2006, UK created and hosted the nation’s first statewide postsecondary Engagement Conference. The event provided training for UK faculty and faculty from other Kentucky universities in engagement, building intrastate collaborations, and building the reputation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as an engagement leader.

December 2006, UK received the Carnegie Foundation designation as an engaged school for Outreach and Partnerships.

UK is a co-sponsor of the National Engagement Conference, shaping and directing the national conference and Engagement in the US; UK holds a position on the NOSC board and the Vice Presidency of the NOSC.

In December 2008, UK received the Carnegie Foundation designation as an engaged school for Curricular Engagement.

In November 2008, UK received the NASULGC South Region Engagement Award, with the Centering Pregnancy Smiles initiative led by Rob Kovaric in the College of Dentistry.

In the 2010, the Provost created and awarded the first Provost Public Scholar Award for Engaged Scholarship. The Public Scholar Award recognizes UK faculty and professional staff whose careers are marked by sustained activities that systematically and effectively advance university-community engagement, successfully address important community issues through collaborative initiatives, and create intellectual products respected by peers within and beyond the academy. Paul Eakin won the award in 2010; Marcia Stanhope won the award in 2011.

In 2011, two UK Commonwealth Collaboratives received designation as Exemplary Projects from APLU, with the official awarding to occur in November 2011. This included the Clean Indoor Air Partnership and the Reforesting Coal Mined Lands project.

UK has earned the status of serving as a judge for the annual APLU regional and national C. Peter Magrath Engagement Award.

UK has already exceeded, multiple times, the 2014 metric approved by the Provost for UK Strategic Plan Goal 5, to receive national, regional, or disciplinary recognition for Outreach and Engagement (Metric 5.3).

The UK Engagement Committee developed a draft AR for Promotion and Tenure. This was presented to the Senate Council under the leadership of Heidi Anderson and is presently still in the discussion phase.