A Message from President Eli Capilouto

Nearly 150 years ago, at the birth of our storied institution, the nation and our state set in motion a profound idea that a university had the ability to change people’s lives through unmatched, quality higher education; innovative and life-altering research and discovery; and outreach that uplifts the communities and people it serves.

Today, the University of Kentucky is finding new ways to carry out its mission – its promise – to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, and the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We are blessed with a strong faculty core who support more than 200 academic programs spread across 16 colleges and professional schools. UK has recently restructured its undergraduate education program creating the new “UK Core,” which will provide students with a comprehensive education that will prepare them to lead lives of leadership, meaning and purpose.

On campus, we have undertaken an innovative effort to revitalize our residence halls. We are engaged in a public/private partnership with Education Realty Trust to build community spaces for our students to learn and commune in a way that enhances the overall college experience.

While we relish in a wide variety of curricular opportunities, UK offers exciting co-curricular activities that complement what our students learn inside the classroom and encourage them to actively participate in the broader Lexington community. The University of Kentucky emphasizes our outreach and service mission while balancing the preparation of a future generation for a world that never stops evolving.

The exciting things the University of Kentucky is doing off campus signal a diverse community of global scholars engaging in a cooperative exchange of ideas on campus. Our academic mission is the core of our institution and our faculty, staff and students are at the heart of our endeavor. With students from all 120 Kentucky counties, each of the 50 states and more than 100 countries worldwide, our campus environment is the opportune setting to prepare our students for a global society.

UK Healthcare has reached a phenomenal capacity to serve the Commonwealth through our state-of-the-art patient care pavilion and emergency room, advanced biomedical and biological research and a network of affiliate healthcare agencies throughout Kentucky. UK Healthcare’s passion for people and our vision for a medical campus of the future have inspired leading physicians and researchers from across the United States to join us in our effort. Since their arrival, they have balanced a research agenda with outreach trips to our affiliate hospitals so Kentucky families can receive quality healthcare at home and travel to Lexington only for advanced, life-saving medical procedures. Our outreach and service extend beyond our healthcare enterprise.

The University of Kentucky has a vibrant fine arts program and is a cultural hub for arts engagement in the Commonwealth. UK creative writing professor Nikki Finney is the recent recipient of the National Book Award for Poetry. Student performers in the UK Symphony Orchestra played alongside the world’s best musicians in the Boston Pops tribute concert for the 75th Anniversary of Keeneland Race Course. The School of Music’s Opera Program and Symphony travel across Kentucky performing at middle and high schools. More often than not, our outreach program is the only access a student has to any arts program, let alone one of nationally renowned caliber.

Over the last several years, the College of Design has become a major resource for communities looking to redevelop resources in creative ways to address the economic challenges they face. Recently, faculty and staff architects have helped repurpose houseboat manufacturing facilities in southeast Kentucky to build energy efficient residences for families in the region.

Closer to home, UK’s Office of Commercialization and Economic Development assists faculty and staff researchers as they move their ideas and designs through the business modeling process and into burgeoning small businesses. Recently, the Lexington Venture Club assessed the success rate of a number of start-up companies benefiting from angel investment funds and venture capital. UK-affiliated companies attracted nearly half of the $69.9 million in venture funding, created 100 new jobs and employed a total of 283 people.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto
President
University of Kentucky – The Kentucky Promise

The innovation, creativity, quality teaching and service under way at the University of Kentucky touch the lives of people throughout the state, the nation and the world. UK accomplishes this achievement through groundbreaking research, community outreach and technological advances that contribute to the betterment of the Commonwealth while also fostering a cultural quality of life through our museums, libraries and special events.

Founded in 1865 as a land-grant institution adjacent to downtown Lexington, UK is nestled in the scenic heart of the beautiful Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. From its early beginnings, with only 190 students and 10 professors, UK’s campus now covers more than 716 acres and is home to more than 28,000 students and nearly 12,500 employees. UK is one of a small number of universities in the U.S. that has programs in agriculture, engineering, medicine and pharmacy on a single campus, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and unique interdisciplinary collaboration. The state’s flagship university consists of 16 academic and professional colleges where students can choose from more than 200 majors and degree programs. The colleges are Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Business and Economics, Communication and Information, Dentistry, Design, Engineering, Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Social Work.

The student body is diverse, representing more than 100 countries, every state in the nation, and all 120 Kentucky counties. The University continues to attract the best and brightest from Kentucky and beyond. The average ACT score for first-year students is four points above the national average. Nearly 400 students participated in the Governor’s Scholars Program or the Governor’s School for the Arts and 32 are National Merit Scholars. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall and Gates. UK had its 13th Astronaut Scholar named in 2012, has 12 Truman Scholars, 10 Goldwater Scholars and has had two Gates Cambridge Scholars in the past four years.

Since his arrival, UK President Eli Capilouto has set forth an ambitious agenda to honor our promise to Kentucky as a modern, land-grant and flagship research university lighting the path toward a brighter tomorrow.

The University

“The University of Kentucky has a broad range of resources centered on a single campus in the heart of the Bluegrass. Our wide array of programs allows us to excel in multidisciplinary studies and fosters an environment of cooperative engagement across all colleges, programs and research endeavors,” Capilouto says. “We do a great disservice to the people of
Kentucky if we dream too little dreams. Our renewed commitment to fulfilling our promise to Kentucky will help us position the Commonwealth as a major actor in a 21st century economy. The University of Kentucky, as the state’s flagship and land-grant research institution, is called to improve the general welfare of our citizenry, and we are uniquely positioned to make a brighter future the reality for the people of Kentucky.”

UK boasts more than 93 national rankings for academic excellence. Five programs are ranked at the top of their respective fields. U.S. News and World Report ranks several of UK’s graduate programs among the nation’s best: the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration is ranked fourth in the category of public finance and budgeting and the College of Pharmacy is ranked fifth. The University of Kentucky has 27 programs ranked among the top 10 in their discipline.

The College of Medicine’s family medicine program is 17th and its rural health program is 18th. The Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations named the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce the 16th strongest master’s degree program in international affairs in the world. The College of Public Health, graduate program in public health; the Gatton College of Business and Economics, Ph.D. in business administration; and the College of Medicine, Ph.D. in physiology are ranked in the top 25 in their respective fields. In addition, a study published in the Southern Economic Journal ranks the Gatton College of Business and Economics’ Department of Economics 19th among public institutions in the U.S. U.S. News and World Report ranked the College of Engineering’s undergraduate program 51st among the nation’s public schools that offer a doctorate in engineering. UK’s College of Law is ranked a top 10 best buy.

In 2007, the University of Kentucky became the nation’s first university to raise a billion dollars in its first-ever capital campaign. Reaching its fundraising goal a full nine months ahead of schedule, UK became the 31st American university – both public and private – that successfully completed campaigns of more than $1 billion. Following the campaign, the University initiated a campuswide review of all college, UK Healthcare, athletics and special program development efforts. The review is leading to significant changes in areas of staff performance and metrics, predictive modeling of donor prospects, new recognition and endowment levels and strategies to create a culture of philanthropy among faculty, staff, alumni, friends and students. As a result, UK is at its highest level of fundraising success.

With its well-manicured landscape and landmark buildings, UK’s campus also offers great facilities that advance the scholarship of its students and the research endeavors of its faculty. At the heart of the campus is the iconic William T. Young Library, the most visible of the more than one dozen facilities that comprise UK Libraries. The stately architecture features a 93-foot-tall rotunda and a dramatic five-floor atrium allowing natural light to pour in from skylights. With the largest book endowment of all public universities in the United States, UK Libraries is among the world’s leading research libraries. Its broad scope of advanced technology offers students, faculty, and Kentucky residents special access to current information online in addition to printed resources.

To match the scope, scale and grandeur of William T. Young Library, the University of Kentucky has recently engaged in an effort to revitalize student living and learning spaces. UK’s public/private partnership with Education Realty Trust will infuse needed capital into campus to create nearly 9,000 modern living spaces by 2018.

Research at the University of Kentucky is a dynamic enterprise encompassing both traditional scholarship and emerging technologies, and UK’s research faculty, staff and students are establishing UK as one of the nation’s most prolific public research universities. UK research expenditures were nearly $368 million last year. During last fiscal year, research grants and contracts from out-of-state sources resulted in a nearly $350 million contribution to the state’s economy, accounting for more than 8,800 jobs and $182.9 million in personal income.

With more than 50 research centers and institutes, UK researchers are discovering new knowledge, providing a rich training ground for current students (the next generation of Kentucky researchers), and advancing the economic growth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Several centers excel in the services offered to the public. The Gluck Equine Research Center is one of only three facilities of its kind in the world, conducting research into diseases of the horse.

The Center for Applied Energy Research conducts groundbreaking research across the energy disciplines. CAER staff are pioneering new ways to sustainably utilize Kentucky natural resources through carbon-capture algae technology, biomass/coal to liquid products and the development of UK’s first LEED-certified research lab to support the development of Kentucky’s growing sustainable energy industry.

Because UK is one of the few universities in the country with a research and teaching campus and a medical center in one central location, multidisciplinary research is particularly strong. The Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center (ASTeCC) in the heart of campus provides lab space for faculty who represent a variety of colleges and departments and is a hub for multidisciplinary research collaboration and commercialization. Engineers in the Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments are collaborating with speech pathologists to pinpoint and map the effects of various speech disorders on a 3D virtual larynx.

Through the collaborative efforts of nearly 200 faculty and staff across 12 departments and colleges, the University of Kentucky was recently awarded a Clinical Translational Sciences Award from the National Institute of Health. UK was awarded the CTSA for its success in moving research and discovery in the lab into practical field applications.

The UK Chandler Medical Center was established in 1957 and is one of the nation’s finest academic medical centers. The faculty, students and staff of our dynamic Medical Center take pride in achieving excellence in education, patient care, research and community service. The 473-bed UK Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children’s Hospital are supported by a growing faculty and staff. The opening of the new $532 million Patient Care Pavilion at UK Chandler Hospital, the cornerstone for the Commonwealth’s Medical Campus of the Future, includes the only Level 1 Trauma Center and hybrid operating room in Central and Eastern Kentucky. While our new patient care pavilion is the leading healthcare facility for advanced medical procedures in the region, our talented physicians consult with and travel to our network of affiliate hospitals so Kentucky citizens can receive the best healthcare available at home. UK Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children’s Hospital care for the most critically injured and ill patients in this half of Kentucky.

UK has demonstrated its commitment to partnerships with business and other institutions of higher learning. In Lexington, UK is shaping a better relationship with the community by becoming more active in life throughout the city, especially downtown. But UK contributes far beyond the borders of Fayette County. As an anchor institution for the Bluegrass Economic Advanced Movement, UK’s College of Engineering and graduates of our institution are a critical component of growing an advanced manufacturing economy in Central Kentucky. UK is part of the Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium, a collection of 13 postsecondary institutions working together to advance the cause of learning.

UK’s agenda remains committed to accelerating the University’s movement toward academic excellence in all areas and gain worldwide recognition for its outstanding academic programs, its commitment to undergraduates, its success in building a diverse community and its engagement with the larger society. It’s all part of the University’s fulfillment of our promise to Kentucky and position our state as a leader in American prosperity.