A Message From President Lee T. Todd Jr.

There has never been a more exciting time to be at the University of Kentucky. UK is in the midst of one of this nation’s boldest journeys – to transform UK into one of the 20 best public research universities in the nation. Our national aspirations were made clear in our Top 20 Business Plan. The Business Plan is a unique approach for public universities as it laid out a 14-year, detailed financial analysis of the resources it will take to transform the University into a premier public research institution.

Our journey to Top 20 did not start with the formation of the Business Plan, however. Since 1997 (when Kentucky legislators mandated UK become a Top 20 public research university), our enrollment, graduation rates, endowment, research funding, and annual giving have all soared. Our Top 20 dreams will continue to depend on our success in the classroom. Buoyed by our excellent students, faculty, and staff, UK boasts over 80 national rankings for academic excellence. We are currently ranked 35th among all public research universities, according to our Business Plan. Already many of our programs rank among the nation’s best, including the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, which is ranked 6th in the category of public finance and budgeting, the 8th-ranked College of Pharmacy, the Patterson School of Diplomacy’s program in International Relations is ranked 18th, the 20th-ranked Rural Medicine program in the College of Medicine, and the 29th-ranked College of Nursing.

A meaningful college experience is not only about classroom knowledge – it also is about personal growth. At UK, students can find growth opportunities in more than 300 campus organizations and activities ranging from athletic events to debate teams to arts organizations. Our students hail from 117 foreign countries, all 50 states and every county in Kentucky. You will have the opportunity to travel the nation and abroad, learning about the many cultures that populate our world. Through this diverse and enriching environment, students gain another dimension to their education and become more equipped to excel in our rapidly changing world.

With its tradition of excellence and promise of continued growth, the University of Kentucky is a great place to be a student. Just ask the 215,000-plus alumni. Among them are Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners, a U.S. ambassador, an astronaut, a Hollywood actress, a screenwriter, numerous governors, legislators, university presidents, business leaders, and best-selling authors. Today we stand at a critical point as UK strives to even greater heights. With vigilance and vigor, the University of Kentucky is poised to take its place among the nation’s elite.

Sincerely,

Lee T. Todd Jr.
President
average. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater and Marshall. UK had its 12th Truman Scholar named in 2005. Also in 2005, UK was selected to participate in the Beckman Foundation Scholarship program for the second time. This program allows UK to award grants of $17,600 to students to support their own research projects.

Since 1997, the University has pursued an ambitious goal of becoming a Top 20 public research university by the year 2020. UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. has embraced this goal in a way that promises an impact on every Kentucky resident.

“As the state’s flagship institution, the University of Kentucky is mindful of its responsibility to help all Kentuckians,” Todd says. “Our land-grant mission calls on us to make a positive impact across the state. We need to be an educational leader, while remaining accessible to all Kentuckians. We need to be a cultural leader, sharing new ideas and opportunities across the state. And we need to be leading Kentucky’s charge into the new economy. We must be the catalyst for a new Commonwealth.”

The University is working aggressively to achieve its Top 20 goal. In December 2005, UK released its Top 20 Business Plan, a detailed financial analysis of the resources it will take to transform the University into a premier public research institution. The plan was widely supported by Kentucky legislators during the 2006 legislative session, as UK received full funding for the plan starting in 2007-08.

UK boasts over 90 national rankings for academic excellence. UK is currently ranked 35th among all public research universities for overall excellence, according to the Top 20 Business Plan. U.S. News & World Report ranked several of UK’s graduate programs among the nation’s best. The Martin School of Public Policy and Administration is ranked 6th in the category of public finance and budgeting and the College of Pharmacy is ranked 8th. The College of Medicine’s family medicine program is 17th and its rural medicine program is 18th, and the College of Nursing’s master’s program is ranked 29th. Foreign Policy magazine named the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce one of the “Top 20 Masters Programs in International Affairs,” ranking it 18th. The College of Health Sciences’ physical therapy graduate program is ranked 35th, the College of Social Work’s master’s program is 38th, and the College of Law is ranked among the top 50 public institutions. In addition, U.S. News & World Report ranked the Gatton College of Business and Economics’ undergraduate program 57th among public universities and the College of Engineering’s undergraduate program 56th among the nation’s public schools that offer a doctorate in engineering.

In 2000, officials launched The Campaign for the University of Kentucky, a $600 million fund-raising effort to enhance faculty, students, facilities, academic programs, and public service. The Campaign raised over $618 million in just over five years – surpassing its original goal of $600 million. In the fall of 2003 University officials announced plans to expand its fund-raising goal by an additional $400 million over the next four years, bringing the University’s new total goal to $1 billion. UK is well on its way, having already raised more than $990 million.

During the last fiscal year, UK faculty received more than $290 million in extramural grants and contracts. During the last fiscal year alone, research grants and contracts from out-of-state sources resulted in a $410.6 million contribution to the Kentucky economy, including $200.1 million in personal income.

Research at the University of Kentucky is a dynamic enterprise encompassing both traditional scholarship and emerging technologies. In over 50 research centers and institutes, UK researchers are discovering new knowledge, providing a rich training ground for the next generation of researchers, and advancing the economic growth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Several centers excel in the services offered to the public. The Center for Manufacturing has assisted more than 500 small and mid-sized industrial firms throughout the state. The Gluck Equine Research Center is one of only three facilities of its kind in the world, conducting research into diseases of the horse.

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 ASTeCC (Advanced Science and Technology Commercialization Center) building in the center of campus provides lab space for faculty affiliates who represent a variety of colleges and departments and is a hub for multidisciplinary research collaboration and commercialization. UK researchers engage in projects with professors at the University of Louisville, Murray State University, Eastern Kentucky University, and other public and private institutions across Kentucky, in other states and abroad.

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 young, 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 and dynamic faculty and staff. The University is in the process of constructing a new $450 million UK Chandler Hospital, which will serve as a cornerstone for the Commonwealth’s Medical Campus of the Future. UK HealthCare serves a unique role in the Commonwealth, as the only Level I Trauma Center in Central and Eastern Kentucky. 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. UK researchers are dedicated to conducting the type of research that will make an impact on Kentucky families. UK is working to help alleviate some of the nagging issues that have held Kentucky back through its Commonwealth Collaboratives initiative. The plan calls for the University to conduct research and participate in projects to solve some of Kentucky’s most pressing problems. UK faculty and researchers are leading efforts to battle conditions in these areas to improve educational, social, and economic conditions in all 120 Kentucky counties.

UK’s agenda is simple. It is to accelerate the movement toward academic excellence and to become known worldwide for the quality of its academic programs, its commitment to undergraduates, its success in building a diverse community, and its engagement with the larger society. That is what the University of Kentucky is all about.

UK is forging ahead to meet the changing demands of global citizens. While touching countless lives, UK’s greatest impact is felt at home. Indeed, the campus of the University of Kentucky is the Commonwealth of Kentucky.