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 nearly 150-year-old Kentucky Promise – to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, and the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is the idea that we have been charged to lead as our state’s flagship through a three-fold mission of education, research and service.

We are blessed with a strong faculty core that supports more than 200 academic programs spread across 16 colleges and professional schools. UK has recently restructured and implemented its undergraduate education program, creating the new “UK Core,” which is providing 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 restore and rebuild our residential communities. We are engaged in a public/private partnership with Memphis-based EdR to create living and learning spaces for our students to discover and collaborate in a way that enhances the overall college experience.

By 2014, we will add more than 2,900 modern residence hall beds across three community sites on our campus – among the largest growth periods in the institution’s history. Included in this purposeful expansion is an additional 62,000 square feet of technology-rich classroom and study space to advance our teaching and learning mission.

Our endeavor to build a campus that supports a new century of promise includes three capital projects vital to the long-term future of the institution: the renovation and expansion of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, a new Academic Science Building, and a renovated Commonwealth Stadium and Nutter Training Center. Each project will be self-financed through private philanthropy and institutional resources. Most notable is the generosity of our donors who will completely finance a new Gatton College and the bold partnership with UK Athletics – one of the few self-sustaining programs in the nation – which will pay for two-thirds of the Academic Science Building and the entirety of the athletic facilities.

Our capital priorities are a critical component of our future, but our campus is more than bricks and mortar – it is the faculty, staff and administrators who open doors of opportunity for our students and the programs that comprise the comprehensive college experience we offer. The University’s wide variety of academic opportunities are complemented by exciting extra-curricular activities that add richly to what our students learn inside the classroom and encourage them to actively participate as part of a global community. We emphasize our outreach and service missions to better prepare our 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 that 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 strategically developed an incredible capacity to serve the Commonwealth through our state-of-the-art patient care pavilion and emergency rooms, advanced biomedical and biological research, and a network of affiliate health care agencies throughout Kentucky. Recently, UK Healthcare was named the “No. 1 Hospital in Kentucky” by U.S. News and World Report’s Best Hospitals survey, signaling our arrival as the region’s eminent provider of high-touch, high-tech subspecialty care at our flagship medical center and across our network of health care providers and practitioners. Our 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 to our affiliate and partner hospitals so Kentucky families can receive quality health care at home and travel to Lexington only for the most advanced, complex medical care and procedures. The University of Kentucky has a vibrant fine arts program and is a cultural hub for arts engagement in the Commonwealth. UK English professor and director of the African American and Africana Studies Program, Frank X Walker, was recently named Kentucky Poet Laureate. 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. In many instances, our outreach program is the only access a student has to any arts program, let alone one of nationally renowned caliber.
The University

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 faculty and staff researchers translate their ideas and designs through the business modeling process and into burgeoning small businesses. In addition to attracting venture capital for start-up companies, UK faculty and staff lend their intellectual expertise to national and multi-national companies located in Lexington. UK’s Coldstream Research Campus is home to 62 companies in the biotech, pharmaceutical, equine health and service industries, including the global headquarters and regional offices for Tempur-Pedic, A&W Restaurants, Bingham McCutchen and Hewlett-Packard.

In many ways, the University of Kentucky endures as a modern flagship, land-grant research institution, emboldened anew by an enduring and timeless Promise to improve our state, region, nation and global community.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto
President

University of Kentucky – The Kentucky Promise

The innovation, creativity, quality teaching and uplifting service under way at the University of Kentucky touch the lives of people throughout the state, the nation and the world. This is our Kentucky Promise – a covenant honored through groundbreaking and research, community outreach, intellectually rigorous education, 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 918 acres and is home to nearly 29,000 students and approximately 14,500 employees, including more than 2,300 full-time faculty. UK is one of a small number of universities in the United States that has programs in agriculture, engineering, a full complement of health colleges including medicine and pharmacy, law, and fine arts 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 at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The colleges are Agriculture, Food and Environment; Arts and Sciences; Business and Economics; Communication and Information; Dentistry; Design; Education; 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. At 25.5, the average ACT score for first-year students is more than four points above the national average. More than 400 students participated in the Governor’s Scholars Program or the Governor’s School for the Arts and 71 were National Merit and National Achievement Scholars. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall and Gates. UK has had its 14th Astronaut Scholar named in the 2012-13 academic year. Additionally, UK has had 5 Truman Scholars and 10 Goldwater Scholars since 2000, and two Gates Cambridge Scholars in the past five years.

Since his arrival, 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. By focusing on infrastructure growth and improvement; creating opportunities for innovative teaching and learning; fostering a robust research and creative scholarship enterprise; providing life-saving subspecialty care; empowering communities through service and outreach; and encouraging a transparent and shared dialogue about institutional priorities; the University of Kentucky will ensure a new century of promise for the people we impact.

The University

“The University of Kentucky has a broad range of resources centered on a single campus in the heart of the Bluegrass,” Capilouto says. “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. 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 driver 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.”

In the last five years, UK has received 95 national rankings for excellence in academics, research, health care, and economic development. 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 second in the category of public finance and budgeting, and the College of Pharmacy is ranked fifth. The University of Kentucky has 28 Top 10 rankings and 50 top 25 rankings.

The College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Hispanic Studies and doctoral program in Clinical Psychology have both received top honors for faculty productivity and scholarly activity. UK’s premier professional opera training program is ranked in the top 20 in the nation by the Tucker Foundation. 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 (overall); the Gatton College of Business and Economics, Ph.D. in business administration; the College of Health Sciences, Physical Therapy program; the College of Medicine, Ph.D. in physiology; and the College of Nursing (overall) 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., and Gatton’s Masters in Accountancy program has among the highest placement rates on the CPA exam. 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. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment – the foundation of our land-grant mission – boasts the nation’s third largest Cooperative Extension Service, and UK’s College of Law is ranked a top 10 best buy.

In 2007, the University of Kentucky became the nation’s first public 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 16th American public university – 31st of 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, staff 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 EdR will infuse needed capital into campus to create nearly 9,000 modern living spaces by 2018. The University recently received authorization from the Kentucky General Assembly to self-finance the construction of three facilities critical to the long term health and success of the institution:

• A $65 million renovation and expansion of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, made possible through the generosity of donors and friends.

• A $100 million Science and Academic Building that will define cutting-edge, interdisciplinary education and research that spans an array of scientific fields. UK Athletics is funding nearly two-thirds, $65 million, of this modern learning and research space – an unprecedented move in American higher education and NCAA athletics.

• A $110 million renovation of Commonwealth Stadium and the Nutter Training and Recruiting Center, financed completely by self-generated revenue from UK Athletics.

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 more than $361 million last year. UK attracted $236 million in research grants and contracts from out-of-state sources. With more than 50 research centers and institutes, UK researchers are discovering new knowledge, providing a rich training ground for current students and 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 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 is pursuing 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 opening of UK’s first LEED-certified research lab to support the development of Kentucky’s growing alternative energy industry. Among the brightest examples of UK’s investment in transformative research is the Markey Cancer Center. As a center of excellence and distinction at UK, Markey’s robust research and clinical enterprise is the cornerstone of our commitment to Kentucky – fundamental to our success in uplifting lives through our endeavors and improving the general health and welfare of our state – burdened by the nation’s highest rate of cancer deaths per 100,000 people.

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. Through the collaborative efforts of nearly 200 faculty and staff across 12 departments and colleges, the University of Kentucky was awarded a $20 million Clinical Translational Sciences Award from the National Institute of Health. As one of only 60 institutions with this research distinction, UK was awarded the CTSA for its success in moving research and discovery in the lab into practical field applications.

Established in 1957, the medical center at UK is one of the nation’s finest academic medical centers and includes the University’s clinical enterprise, UK HealthCare. The 569-bed UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children’s Hospital, along with 256 beds at UK Good Samaritan Hospital, are supported by a growing faculty and staff providing the most advanced subspecialty care for the most critically injured and ill patients throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Over the last several years, the number of patients served by the medical enterprise has increased from roughly 19,000 discharges to more than 34,300 discharges in 2012, including more than 27,500 surgeries.

UK Chandler Hospital includes the only Level 1 Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky. In addition, UK HealthCare recently opened one of the country’s largest robotic hybrid operating rooms and the first of its kind in the region. 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 health care available close to their home and never need to leave the Bluegrass for complex subspecialty care.

The University 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 directly engaging with businesses, local government and civic service organizations. The College of Education’s P20 Innovation Lab is reforming Kentucky classrooms by implementing 21st century learning technologies, preparing new teachers and providing additional training for school and district leadership. Because of their compelling work, the National Center for Innovation in Education was recently established at the University of Kentucky.

UK’s reach extends 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 also part of the Bluegrass Higher Education Consortium, a collection of 13 postsecondary institutions working together to advance the cause of learning. And we work collaboratively with other institutions to establish joint degree programs and improve the pipeline of students transferring between colleges and universities.

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 students, its investment in pioneering research and discovery, 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 to position our state as a leader in American prosperity.