The University

A Message from President Eli Capilouto

In February 1865, amid the still smoldering embers of the Civil War, John Bryan Bowman advocated for a public university in Lexington. Though located in the Bluegrass, the Agriculture and Mechanical College of Kentucky University would go on to serve the better interests of the entire Commonwealth. It was a profound idea that a university had the ability to change people’s lives through unmatched higher education, innovative research and discovery, and outreach that uplifts and heals communities and the people it serves.

Today, the University of Kentucky is pioneering new ways to carry out its mission 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 multi-faceted mission of education, research, service and health care.

We are blessed with a strong faculty core that supports more than 200 academic programs spread across 17 colleges, professional schools and the UK Library system. The UK Core, the institution’s innovative undergraduate curriculum, is providing students with a comprehensive education that will prepare them for lives of leadership, meaning and purpose. The University is deeply intent on building upon our previous work with creative and direct approaches to further enhancing and expanding student success.

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-learning spaces for our students to discover and collaborate in a way that enhances the overall college experience.

By 2017, we will add more than 6,800 modern residence hall beds in 14 new facilities on our campus – among the largest growth periods in the institution’s history. Included in this purposeful expansion are more than 200 technology-rich academic learning spaces to enhance the college experience.

Our endeavor to build a campus that supports a new century of promise includes several 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, a renovated Commonwealth Stadium and Nutter Training Center, a dramatic renewal of the student center, the continued fit-out of Chandler Hospital, a new home for the School of Art and Visual Studies, and a new multi-disciplinary medical sciences research building.

Each project will be financed through a mix of private philanthropy, creative partnerships, clinical revenue, state support 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.

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 new spaces we are creating, in addition to the renewal of our dining facilities, foster a rewarding sense of community across our campus. Our goal is to create places where students build friendships, learn with and from faculty mentors, and colleagues collaborate on the next great idea.

The University’s wide variety of academic opportunities are complemented by exciting co-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.

President Eli Capilouto

The exciting things the University of Kentucky is doing off campus signal a diverse community engaging in a cooperative exchange of ideas. 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 new, state-of-the-art patient care pavilion, advanced biomedical and biological research, and a network of health care partners throughout Kentucky.

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 efforts. Since their arrival, they have balanced a research agenda with outreach to our affiliate and partner hospitals so Kentucky families can receive high-quality health care at home and travel to Lexington only for the most advanced, complex medical care and procedures. Their work has led UK’s evolution as a leading medical research institution and positioned us as one of 22 universities with federal research distinctions in cancer, aging and translational science.
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 named the 2013-14 Kentucky Poet Laureate, UK’s fourth professor to hold this honor, as well as the youngest and first African American to be named to the prestigious position. 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. UK alumnus Reginald Smith, Jr. earned one of the five winning spots in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2015. Professor Ebony Patterson’s provocative work is in the spotlight in galleries from Lexington to New York City and beyond.

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 student architects have helped repurpose houseboat manufacturing facilities in southeast Kentucky to build energy efficient residences for families in the region. Additionally, a group of faculty and students are utilizing these innovative energy efficient homes to help Kentucky communities like Johnson County and West Liberty recover and rebuild after devastation caused by natural disasters.

Closer to home, UK faculty and staff researchers commercialize 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 multinational companies located in Lexington. UK’s 735-acre Coldstream Research Campus is home to more than 2,250 employees and 56 companies in the biotech, pharmaceutical, equine health and service industries, including the global headquarters and regional offices for Tempur Sealy, A&W Restaurants, and Hewlett-Packard.

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

It is a vision that has been a steadfast commitment throughout our history. It is a promise that will guide us in the future.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto
President

University of Kentucky – The Commonwealth’s Flagship Institution

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 the covenant we honor through ground-breaking 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 more than 30,000 students and approximately 14,500 full-time employees, including more than 2,300 full-time faculty, and operates an annual budget of more than $3.0 billion. UK is one of eight universities in the United States that has colleges of agriculture, engineering, medicine and pharmacy on a single campus, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and unique interdisciplinary collaboration. The state’s flagship university consists of 17 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; the Graduate School; Health Sciences; Law; Medicine; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Health; and Social Work. Supporting and emboldening our scholarly community is a comprehensive research library system made up of nine facilities, including the world-class William J. Young library.

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. Several hundred students participated in the Governor’s Scholars Program or the Governor’s School for the Arts; and the University enrolled more than 400 National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars in the last four years. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall and Gates. UK had its 15th and 16th Astronaut Scholars named in 2013-14. Additionally, UK has had 13 Truman Scholars since the program started, as well as 18 Goldwater Scholars since 1990. In the 2014-15 academic year, UK had its 5th Marshall Scholar, and two Gates Cambridge Scholars have been named in the past seven years. This past year, three students received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Since his arrival, President Eli Capilouto has set forth an ambitious agenda to honor our covenant with Kentucky as a modern, land-grant and flagship research university lighting the path toward a brighter tomorrow. By focusing on student success; academic excellence; infrastructure growth and improvement; creating opportunities for innovative teaching and learning; fostering a robust research and creative scholar-ship 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. Because of the lives we touch and teach, we remain anchored in our mission to Kentucky – to educate, innovate and serve. To be sure, our complex, multi-faceted mission looks different today in many ways than it did in 1865. However, our sense of responsibility to our communities on campus and across the region is resolute. The mission has evolved and grown. The vision of service to our Commonwealth and the world beyond remains the same. They remain our compass – the soul of the University of Kentucky.”

In the last several years, UK has received nearly 100 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 earned 28 Top 10 rankings and 50 Top 25 rankings over the last several years.

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 was named one of the top programs 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 among the top 20 master’s degree programs in international affairs in the world. In the last few years, 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) have been ranked in the Top 25
in their respective fields. In addition, a study published in the Southern Economic Journal ranked 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 passage rates on the CPA exam. 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 has been ranked a top 10 best buy.

In 2007, the University of Kentucky became the 16th American public university—31st of both public and private—that successfully completed campaigns of more than $1 billion. Moreover, the University was the first institution to reach this milestone in its first-ever billion-dollar capital campaign. Following the campaign, the University initiated a campus-wide review of all college, UK HealthCare, athletics and special program development efforts. 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 several 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. UK Libraries is among the world’s leading research libraries with a broad scope of advanced technology that 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 yield more than $1 billion in external grants and contracts in 2015, resulting in an annual direct and indirect economic impact of $581 million, more than 8,000 jobs and $21.3 million generated in local and state taxes.

With more than 50 research centers and institutes, UK researchers are discovering new knowledge, providing a rich training ground for current and next generation of researchers, advancing the economic growth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and exploring art and creativity of diverse cultures. After working for more than 10 years on unlocking an ancient piece of history, faculty in the UK Department of Computer Science will “virtually” unroll 2,000-year-old Herculaneum scrolls buried by volcanic eruption in AD 79. The discovery—made possible by first-of-its-kind software—could have profound impacts on history and literature from the Classical era.

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 (CAER) is pursuing groundbreaking innovation 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. The College of Education’s P20 Innovation Lab is reforming Kentucky classrooms by implementing 21st century learning techniques derived from pedagogical research, preparing new teachers and providing additional training for school and district leadership.

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. In 2013, Markey earned the prestigious National Cancer Institute designation (NCI)—one of 68 nationally and the only one in Kentucky.

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 (CTSA) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As one of only 60 institutions with this research distinction, UK was awarded the CTSA for its potential in moving research and discovery in the lab into practical field and community applications. The CTSA and NCI are part of a trifecta of federal research grants that includes an Alzheimer’s Disease Center. UK is one of only 22 universities in the country to hold all three premier grants from NIH.

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 36,000 discharges in 2015.

UK Chandler Hospital includes the only Level I Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky. In addition, the dramatic
growth of UK HealthCare’s clinic enterprise has created more than 5,000 additional high-paying jobs over the last several years. 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. As a $3.4 billion university, UK is the region’s largest employer, providing more than 12,500 full-time jobs and more than $90 million in state and local payroll taxes.

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 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 mission as a 21st century flagship and land grant research university. From its first Nobel Laureate to cutting-edge work in addressing health disparities, and from the artistic wonders that stir souls to our scientific creativity that inspires minds, UK seeks a brighter future through the contributions of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.