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. Bowman challenged the Commonwealth’s flagship institution to be the University for Kentucky.

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.

We benefit from a strong faculty core that supports more than 200 academic programs spread across 16 degree-granting colleges, the Graduate School, the Lewis Honors College, and the UK Library system. Over the last two years, the University has creatively merged our academic and student affairs units to develop the Office of Student and Academic Life. The new office, under the leadership of the Associate Provost for Student and Academic Life, collaboratively blends the academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular experiences for University of Kentucky students. These efforts are guided by the University’s strategic priorities to ensure access to an affordable higher education and to further enhance and support student success.

On campus, we have undertaken an intensive and innovative effort to restore and rebuild our residential communities. A public/private partnership with EdR, a leader in the collegiate housing industry, has created living-learning spaces for our students to discover and collaborate in a way that enhances the overall college experience. We have added more than 6,800 modern residence hall beds in 14 new facilities on our campus. Included in this purposeful expansion are more than 200 technology-rich academic learning spaces to enhance student support.

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 Don and Cathy Jacobs Science Building; a renovated Kroger Field and Nutter Training Center; a dramatic renewal of the Bill Gatton Student Center; the continued fit-out of Chandler Hospital; a new home for the School of Art and Visual Studies; an expansion of the College of Law; and a new multi-disciplinary medical sciences research building.

Each project is 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 completely financed a new Gatton College and the bold partnership with UK Athletics – one of the few self-sustaining programs in the nation – which paid for two-thirds of the Jacobs Science Building. In addition, the Lewis Honors College was made possible by the largest single gift in the University’s history, and private support for the new Bill Gatton Student Center ensured the space was completed without the addition of a student fee to finance its construction.

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 spaces in which students can build friendships and learn from faculty mentors, and where colleagues collaborate on the next great idea.

The exciting priorities underway at the University of Kentucky 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.

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

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 20 universities with federal research distinctions in cancer, aging, and translational science.

In total, faculty-led research has yielded more than 600 worldwide patent assets. 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 2,000 employees, and 56 companies in the biotech, pharmaceutical, equine health, and service industries, including the global headquarters and regional offices for Tempur Sealy and A&W Restaurants.

In countless ways, the University of Kentucky endures as a modern flagship, land-grant research institution, emboldened 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 underway 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 13,500 employees, including more than 2,300 full-time faculty, and operates an annual budget of nearly $3.9 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 16 academic and professional colleges where students can choose from more than 200 majors and degree programs at the undergradu- ate and graduate levels. The colleges are Agriculture, Food, and Environment; Arts and Sciences; Gatton College of Business and Economics; Communication and Information; Dentistry; Design; Education; Engineering; Fine Arts; Health Sciences; Law; Medicine; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Health; and Social Work. The new Lewis Honors College provides an immersive liberal arts education with the resources of a leading research university. The Graduate School prepares the next generation of business, industry, and academic leaders. Supporting and emboldening our scholarly community is a comprehensive research library system made up of nine facilities, including the world-class William T. 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 650 National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic Scholars in the last several years. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall, and Gates. UK had its 14th Truman Scholar named in 2017-18. Additionally, UK has had 19 Astronaut Scholars, as well as 21 Goldwater Scholars since 1995. For 2017-18, 11 UK students and alumni were awarded the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. In the past 10 years, 53 UK students have been awarded Fulbrights.

By focusing on student success; academic excellence; 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, 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. 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, heal, 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. US 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 sixth. 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, Department of English, and doctoral program in Clinical Psychology have received top honors for faculty productivity and scholarly activity. 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) and the Gatton College of Business and Economics, Ph.D. in business administration 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 value law school by National Jurist Magazine.

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 and 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 has yielded more than 6,800 modern beds and more than 200 active learning spaces in 14 buildings – a $459 million investment made by our partners.
Johnson Hall and Donovan Hall opened in fall 2013;
- Chellgren Hall, Woodland Glen II, Haggan Hall, Jewell Hall, and Blazer Hall opened in fall 2014;
- Woodland Glen III, IV, & V opened in fall 2015;
- Holmes Hall and Boyd Hall opened in fall 2016; and
- University Flats and Lewis Hall opened in fall 2017.

Over the last four years, the University approved the construction of more than $2.3 billion in infrastructure to bolster the long-term health and success of the institution. In addition to the aforementioned residential housing projects, UK has invested:

- $65 million to renovate and expand the Gatton College of Business and Economics with the support of generous donors and friends;
- $110 million in the new Jacobs Academic Science Building that defines cutting-edge, interdisciplinary education and research. UK Athletics funded nearly two-thirds of this modern learning and research space – an unprecedented move in American higher education and NCAA athletics;
- $120 million to enhance Kroger Field and $45 million to renovate and expand the Nutter Training and Recruiting Center, financed completely by self-generated revenue from UK Athletics;
- $20 million invested in the College of Fine Arts, including a new home for the School of Art and Visual Studies; and
- More than $150 million to continue the fit-out of UK HealthCare’s Chandler Hospital, financed with clinical revenue.

Building on these campus investments, the University is investing:

- $201 million to renovate and expand the Bill Gatton Student Center and create a modern facility for the campus and community, financed with the support of donors and friends of the institution;
- A more than $40 million renovation and expansion of the College of Law; and
- And a $265 million multi-disciplinary health science research facility, financed by the state and institution.

Research at the University of Kentucky is a dynamic enterprise encompassing traditional scholarship, the humanities, health care, and emerging fields and technologies. UK’s research enterprise received approximately $331.1 million research awards in 2017, resulting in $241 million in state taxes; 3,429 jobs across Kentucky; and $511.3 million in statewide production.

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, 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. The Markey Cancer Center is one of 68 National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers in the nation 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 20 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 724-bed UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital and Kentucky Children’s Hospital, along with 221 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. The number of patients served by the medical enterprise has increased from roughly 19,000 discharges in 2003 to more than 38,000 discharges in 2017.

UK Chandler Hospital includes the only Level 1 Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients in Central and Eastern Kentucky. In addition, the dramatic growth of UK HealthCare’s Clinical enterprise has created approximately 5,000 additional high-paying jobs over the last several years. While our new patient care pavilion is the leading health care 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 businesses 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 $3.9 billion university, UK is the region’s largest employer, providing more than 13,500 full-time jobs and more than $100 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 academic excellence in all areas and gaining 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. We are the University of Kentucky.