

CR 1

Chairman, Board of Trustees
October 21, 2022

Members, Board of Trustees:

A RESOLUTION FOR INSPIRING INGENUITY ACROSS OUR CAMPUS TO ENSURE A KENTUCKY THAT IS HEALTHIER, WEALTHIER AND WISER

Recommendation: The University of Kentucky's north star is advancing the Commonwealth by helping create, grow and sustain a state that is healthier, wealthier and wiser. UK research efforts, specifically tied to the needs of Kentucky and the nation, are essential in meeting this institution's mission. The university – because of the breadth and depth of its diverse talents and range of scholarly programs on one contiguous campus – also has a distinctive role to play in developing and nurturing the state's human capital: the capacity to think critically and humanely about the challenges and opportunities confronting the Commonwealth.

Against a backdrop of challenge and opportunity for Kentucky as our nation's economy is rapidly changing, the President is directed to advance Kentucky by taking the steps necessary to further growth, development and expansion of the University's research enterprise by:

- Aligning resource commitments to facilitate strategic cross-campus hiring of talent to build research teams of international standing that address national priorities in science, technology and societal impact.
- Building upon existing areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health (STEM+H) excellence to retain world-class scholars and research teams while mentoring future researcher leaders.
- Utilizing finite resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible to maximize the impact and reach of research.
- Focusing on growth around infrastructure – that already exists and that may need to be added for new capacity – for STEM+H research to meet national priorities and Kentucky workforce and economic development needs.
- Leveraging the talent and intellect that exists across the campus in a transdisciplinary manner to maximize the potential and capacity of our students and our people.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Background: The University of Kentucky's north star is to advance Kentucky. The university advances Kentucky in every facet of its mission and in every effort undertaken throughout the campus.

The goal to advance Kentucky is audacious but necessary: to help create, grow and sustain a Kentucky that is healthier, wealthier and wiser.

A tenet of the institution's Strategic Plan, endorsed by this Board in October 2021, is to Inspire Ingenuity throughout the campus. To that end, research on the campus will and must drive ingenuity – through the pursuit of discovery that changes lives and transforms communities, the expansion of science and technologies that sustainably grow the economy and the steadfast support of talent among our faculty and staff and our students, who this institution is equipping with the critical skills and human and social capital that prepare them for lives of meaning and purpose.

Such development is critical to Kentucky.

It is vital to the nation.

As the economies of the Commonwealth and the country are at inflection points, the state's flagship, land-grant institution must move forward boldly, but strategically, to leverage federal and state support for research efforts that reflect national priorities and expanded funding, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health (STEM+H) areas.

At the same time, the institution must compete for support in what will always be an era of constrained resources in Kentucky. The university must not only compete for that support but utilize the resources it receives efficiently and in ways that maximize impact in advancing the state.

By doing so, UK will lead the Commonwealth in revitalizing domestic advanced manufacturing (through research and development), creating sustainable, good-paying jobs (by educating a skilled workforce), strengthening American supply chains (by partnering with industry) and accelerating industries of the future (by training the next generation of innovators and helping commercialize their research and scholarly output).