

PR 1

Office of the President
June 21, 2019

1. UK, Kentucky Awarded \$87 Million to Combat Opioid Epidemic

In the largest grant ever awarded to the University of Kentucky, researchers from UK's Center on Drug and Alcohol Research (CDAR) and across campus — in partnership with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet — will lead a project as part of the HEALing Communities study. The four-year, more than \$87 million study has a goal of reducing opioid overdose deaths by 40 percent in 16 counties that represent more than a third of Kentucky's population. Kentucky and UK represent one of only four study sites across the U.S. selected by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for this groundbreaking effort. The study is part of the NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative, a bold, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid crisis. Sharon Walsh, director of CDAR, is the principal investigator of the Kentucky study and will lead a team of more than 200 researchers, staff, and state and community partners.

2. UK President, Researchers Participate in Annual Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit

UK's administrators and researchers joined officials from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as leaders from business, academia, and communities across the country impacted by prescription drug abuse in Atlanta for the 2019 RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit. This year, to underscore the significant attention being paid by all levels of government to this devastating public health epidemic, President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump addressed attendees. The Summit began in 2012 under the leadership of U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-5th) and Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment, and Education, Inc.), a collaborative model striving to prevent abuse of drugs and facilitate recovery by creating strategic partnerships, providing leadership, promoting education, coordinating treatment, and supporting law enforcement in a 32-county region in southern and eastern Kentucky.

3. Project Aims to Eradicate Hepatitis C in Perry County

Jennifer Havens, professor of behavioral science in the College of Medicine and faculty member in the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research, is leading an effort to wipe out hepatitis C in Perry County Kentucky. Havens has been examining the rise of injection drug use and the related outbreak of hepatitis C virus (HCV), which causes liver inflammation that can cause liver damage. Untreated or significantly delayed treatment of HCV can lead to the development of liver cancer. With \$15 million from the National Cancer Institute and National Institute on Drug Abuse and a donation of 900 doses of a 12-week treatment from Gilead Sciences Inc., Havens has the goal of eradicating HCV in Perry County. In addition to providing treatment to any and all Perry

County residents who are chronically infected with HCV, the grant funding will provide support for the syringe exchange program in the county and will help improve access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder through a local treatment facility.

4. Alltech, Lyons Family Announce Establishment of New Foundation

Alltech and UK HealthCare have announced a momentous partnership to support lifelong wellness. The Lyons Family Life Foundation will honor the life and legacy of late Alltech founder Dr. Pearse Lyons. The collaboration will focus broadly on total wellness, empowering people to both live well and die well. The foundation's initiatives will reflect Lyons' passion for new technology, music therapy, and lifelong health.

5. UK Launching 'Smart Campus' Strategy

The University of Kentucky is launching a nationally recognized Smart Campus digital strategy over the next three years that focuses on the institution's goals of increasing persistence and graduation rates, while preparing students for lives of meaning and purpose. As part of the program, UK will provide all incoming, first-year students with an iPad Air, Apple Smart Keyboard, and Apple Pencil using \$1.5 million from campus efficiency projects to fund the initiative. UK evaluated the technology and verified iPad will provide the most secure and flexible learning platform for student success. The devices will be pre-loaded with iOS apps that are aimed at helping students achieve a high level of academic success.

6. UK and Jim Beam Partner to Create Institute for Kentucky Spirits

Jim Beam® Bourbon will donate \$5 million to the University of Kentucky to establish the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits. The institute will support a curriculum to educate the next generation of distillers with the skills needed to succeed in the distilled spirits industry at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels. The gift represents Beam Suntory's largest single philanthropic or educational gift in the company's history. The James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, led by the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, will support the offering of courses across engineering, chemistry, business, law, horticulture, forestry, food science, and entomology to address spirits industry needs in sustainable agriculture, research and development, and more.

7. CAER Receives \$3 Million from DOE

The University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) is one of eight entities to be selected by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to receive federal funds for research and development in "Novel and Enabling Carbon Capture Transformational Technologies" to address challenges and knowledge gaps associated with reducing the cost of carbon capture. The \$3 million cooperative agreement awarded to CAER will support their project, "Fog+Froth Based Post-Combustion CO2 Capture in Fossil Fuel Power Plants." Combined with other CAER carbon capture features, the proposed study could potentially reduce the capital cost of carbon capture and storage by 57 percent. Successful development of the proposed technology could have a multitude

of public benefits, including the continued utilization of abundant, low-cost coal for the production of reliable electricity while affordably meeting and managing environmental concerns.

8. Brent Seales Awarded \$2 Million Grant, Poised to Solve 2,000-Year-Old Mystery

Thanks, in large part, to a \$2 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the College of Engineering's Department of Computer Science Chair Brent Seales has the materials access, funding support, and technical approach needed to solve a 2,000-year-old mystery. The prestigious Mellon grant will provide the resources his team needs to virtually unwrap and digitally restore the Herculaneum scrolls. It will also support the electronic compilation and dissemination of the entire Herculaneum collection, which is currently spread across four different institutions throughout Europe. Using cutting-edge technology, Seales is embarking on a daunting task. No other researcher has managed to create a comprehensive catalog of Herculaneum papyri.

9. Keeneland Association Gifts \$1.3 Million to UK for Equine Drug Research

The Keeneland Association continues its long-standing philanthropic relationship with the University of Kentucky with a gift of \$1.3 million to the Keeneland Endowed Chair in Equine Veterinary Science. This gift will grow the fund to \$3 million and will allow the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment's Gluck Equine Research Center to launch a world-class equine drug research and testing program under the direction of Scott Stanley. The laboratory at UK's Coldstream Research Campus will provide drug testing services to a diverse equine clientele from the performance horse and racehorse industries. The Keeneland Association gift will support the research side that will underpin the commercial venture.

10. More Than \$1 Million Raised During One Day for UK

It was a day that exceeded all expectations and showed the generosity of the Kentucky community. One Day for UK, the University's first giving day, raised more than \$1 million on April 17 — benefiting colleges, programs, and causes across campus. In 24 hours, UK received \$1,068,758 from 3,262 gifts, including 450 gifts from first-time donors and nearly 600 gifts from faculty and staff. All of the day's funds supported Kentucky Can: The 21st Century Campaign.

11. Forbes Names UK Among Americas Best Employers

The University of Kentucky has been named among America's Best Employers by Forbes magazine. UK is one of only four employers in Kentucky and the only university in Kentucky on the list. UK is among only 22 universities listed nationally and ranked 18th. Overall, UK is ranked No. 263 of 500 large employers in the country across all industrial sectors. Forbes released its annual list of Best Employers on April 17. This recognition marks the first year the University has been included in the ranking.

12. CPE Awards UK Project Graduate Grant

The University of Kentucky has been awarded a \$25,000 Project Graduate Grant from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). The strategic funds will be used to boost

degree completion of former students with 80 or more credit hours. In total, \$300,000 will be spread among six Kentucky campuses, to help students succeed in college. UK will build off a successful pilot with the College of Arts and Sciences. The goal is to identify former students who qualify for the new Bachelor of Liberal Studies program and expand the model to other colleges.

13. UK Receives National Honor for Commitment to First-generation Students

The Center for First-generation Student Success, an initiative of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), recently named the University of Kentucky to their inaugural cohort of First Forward Institutions. The First Forward designation recognizes institutions of higher education who have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students. Selected institutions receive professional development, community-building experiences, and a first look at the center's research and resources. UK was recognized for its first-generation student advising. The program supports first-generation students from recruitment all the way to graduation through research-based programs, campus resources, best practices, and campus wide support surrounding the needs of students who are the first in their families to go to college.

14. Interactive Tree Map Helps UK Land Tree Campus USA Award

On April 27, the University of Kentucky was awarded the title of Tree Campus USA. This is UK's eighth straight year for the designation. As part of the standards for the campus tree plan Stacy Borden, the arboriculture superintendent for UK, and his team created an interactive tree map. Together, they have mapped more than 11,000 trees on UK's campus to identify the type of tree and its size. The map also displays each tree's benefits including storm water interception, energy conservation, carbon dioxide sequestration, and monetary benefits. UK has also hosted many other tree related projects that contributed to receiving this honor including, Mulch Mondays, the Urban Forest Initiative, tree planting days, and the Adopt-a-Tree Challenge.

15. UK Celebrates Largest Graduating Class

The May 2019 Commencement was held across four ceremonies Friday, May 3, and Sunday, May 5, in Rupp Arena. Doctoral, master's, and baccalaureate degree recipients were recognized together based on their colleges. More than 3,700 students participated in the ceremonies. Overall, 3,750 undergraduate, 1,090 graduate, and 523 professional degree candidates (5,363 total) were approved by the UK Board of Trustees.

16. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Corey Baker (College of Engineering) received an Inclusive Excellence Award from the Office for Institutional Diversity.

Marilyn Campbell (College of Education) received the Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

Abigail Latimer (College of Social Work) is the recipient of the 2019 Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice granted by the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network.

Janice Kuperstein (College of Health Sciences) received an Inclusive Excellence Award from the Office for Institutional Diversity.

Justin Miller (College of Social Work) received the Children's Bureau Champion Award for Supporting the Workforce.

Suzanne Segerstrom (College of Arts and Sciences) was presented the 2019 Kirwan Memorial Prize for outstanding contributions to original research or (creative) scholarship and the Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

Brett Spear (College of Medicine) was presented the 2019 William B. Sturgill Award for outstanding contributions to graduate education.

Oliver Voeking (College of Arts and Sciences) received the Knights Templar Eye Foundation Career-Starter Grant for his retinal research with zebrafish.

17. Student Achievements

B. Kirtley Amos (Agriculture, Food, and Environment of Lexington, Kentucky) is the winner of the 2019 research award from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Whitney Barber (Arts and Sciences of Jenkins, Kentucky) received the 2019 Student Employee of the Year Award.

Alberto Ortiz Brito (Anthropology of Mexico City, Mexico), Daniel Vallejo-Cáliz (Anthropology of Puebla, Mexico), Gertrude Kilgore (Anthropology of Austin, Texas), Gabriela Montero Mejía (Anthropology of San Pedro Cholula, Mexico) and Elizabeth Straub (Anthropology of Allegan, Michigan) won the 2019 Ethics Bowl Competition hosted by the Society for American Archaeology.

Cary Brown (Electrical Engineering of Boston, Kentucky) and Kyra Seevers (Computer Science of Lexington, Kentucky) have been selected to receive Research Internships in Science and Engineering from the German Academic Exchange Service.

Brandon J. Colbert (Communication of Louisville, Kentucky) and Kai Zhang (Pharmacology of Beverly, Massachusetts) each won an Inclusive Excellence Award from the Office for Institutional Diversity.

Terry Duncan (Library, Information Science of Cedar Falls, Iowa) was awarded the 2019 Special Libraries Association IT Student Award.

Ben Farmer (Biology of Lexington, Kentucky) has been awarded the Reef Environmental Education Foundation Dr. Jamie L. King Marine Conservation Internship.

Angela Jones (Biology and Chemistry of Attica, New York), Tom Shelton (Physics and Mathematics of Oregonia, Ohio), and Eura Shin (Computer Science of Morehead, Kentucky) have been awarded Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships.

Sharrah Lane (Hispanic Studies of Charlottesville, Virginia) has received the Gabriela Mistral Award for her academic achievements and noteworthy leadership in Sigma Delta Pi.

Reagan Profit (Art Studio of Lexington, Kentucky) took home first place at the University Open presented by LexArts for her painting "Raw."

Nicole Blackstone (Political Science and Sociology of Eastview, Kentucky), Chase Carlton (Public Health and Anthropology of Dallas, Texas), Josh Ehl (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Lexington, Kentucky), Daniela Gamez (International Studies of Cocks Creek, Kentucky), Carson Hardee (Marketing and Management of Lexington, Kentucky), Claire Hilbrecht (Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences of Louisville, Kentucky), William Kueshner (Mathematical Economics of Goshen, Kentucky), Bria Northington (Social Work of

Louisville, Kentucky), Eli O'Neal (English and Political Science of Louisville, Kentucky), Hannah Thomas (Health, Society and Populations of Hendersonville, Tennessee) Aileen Tierney (English of Louisville, Kentucky) and Megan Yadav (Psychology of Florence, Kentucky) were named scholars for the Gaines Fellowship Program.

MANRRS was named the National Chapter of the Year at the 34th annual Minorities in Agriculture, National Resources, and Related Sciences Conference.

18. Alumni Achievements

Harrison Broadhurst (School of Architecture) appeared on the popular ABC show "Shark Tank," where he presented his BatBNB creation. The house is uniquely designed to protect the bat population.