

PR 1

Office of the President
February 19, 2016

1. UK HealthCare Earns ‘Top Performer on Key Quality Measures’ Recognition from The Joint Commission

UK HealthCare has been recognized as a 2014 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in seven categories by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States. UK HealthCare, which includes the University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital, UK Good Samaritan Hospital and Kentucky Children's Hospital, was recognized as part of The Joint Commission's 2015 annual report "America's Hospitals: Improving Quality and Safety," for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for: heart attacks, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children's asthma, stroke, and perinatal care.

2. UK HealthCare Transplants Record Number of New Hearts in Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Transplant Center recently performed its 43rd adult heart transplant for 2015, setting a record for the most heart transplants performed by a Kentucky medical center in a single year and easily eclipsing the previous state record of 27 heart transplants performed in a single year. The 2015 numbers place the UK Transplant Center in elite company – historically, only 20-25 medical centers in the country perform more than 30 heart transplants in a single year. With a heart transplant team comprising multiple cardiothoracic surgeons, cardiologists and nursing staff working together, UK has adeptly managed to handle the ever-increasing demand of patients who require transplantation.

3. UK Study Finds Kentucky Ag Development Investments Good for Farmers

Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) investments from 2007 through 2014 have positively and significantly impacted agriculture and agribusiness in Kentucky according to a report released November 20, 2015. Researchers from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment estimated \$2.03 in farm income was generated for every dollar invested in KADF projects. In November 2014, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board commissioned UK to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board's investments in agriculture, agribusiness, leadership development, county agricultural investment programs and Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation loan programs. UK researchers found convincing evidence that the investments made by the board were successful in diversifying agricultural opportunities for tobacco-dependent farmers and tobacco-impacted communities across Kentucky.

4. UK, Lexington Host Danny Glover at Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Actor, director, humanitarian and political activist Danny Glover was the keynote speaker at Lexington's 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, presented by the University of Kentucky and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. With a career spanning more than 30 years, Glover is one of the most respected actors working today. Two University of Kentucky performers shared the stage with Mr. Glover at the celebration. Miss Kentucky Clark J. Davis, a sophomore at UK, and Cliff Jackson, associate professor of vocal coaching at UK Opera Theatre, inspired and entertained locals commemorating the memory of America's most honored human rights advocate. For the fourth year, presented by the Center for Community Outreach's Martin Luther King Jr. Wildcats for Service, UK offered a service opportunity for students and employees.

5. New UK Home Page Unveiled

The University of Kentucky recently unveiled a newly designed home page that utilizes responsive design to tell the stories of students, faculty, staff and alumni in a more compelling way. The website, www.uky.edu has a number of new innovations that, together, advance the university's web presence in significant ways, especially when it comes to students.

6. UK Students Surprise Beloved Staff Member

A University of Kentucky staff member who says, "it never hurts to talk to people," was shown the impact of her kind words in a holiday surprise initiated and orchestrated entirely by UK students. Tammy Terry, affectionately known as "Mrs. Tammy" to UK students, is a UK Dining employee and lobby attendant of the Starbucks at William T. Young Library. In December, Terry was surprised by more than 100 students who took a break from their final exam preparation to witness the moment she learned of the gift — more than \$6,000 raised through a GoFundMe campaign.

7. UK Students Support Each Other Through 'Cats Pay it Forward Wall'

A UK student initiative to encourage a community of giving, the "Cats Pay It Forward" wall, is now hanging in the dining area adjacent to the William T. Young Library Starbucks. Earlier this semester, a student approached UK's administration with an idea: he envisioned a simple platform that students could use to better support each other, and called it the Cats Pay It Forward wall. The Cats Pay It Forward wall is a large cork board to which community members can pin donations, gift cards, meal tickets, pre-paid credit cards, and other items. Anyone desiring assistance can simply and anonymously take any item from the wall that meets his or her needs, serving as a symbol of community and giving.

8. UK Community Helps Turn around Academic Performance at William Wells Brown

Working one-on-one with children at Williams Wells Brown in Lexington, Kentucky, as well as other elementary schools struggling in the area, became a priority for faculty members and students across the University of Kentucky's campus after the school was listed at the bottom of

statewide rankings during the 2014-2015 academic year. Groups from the UK College of Nursing, UK College of Education and UK College of Arts and Sciences have been working at the school, engaged in research, student-teaching, tutoring, and even helping William Wells Brown students develop an appreciation for their neighborhood through activities in its after school program.

9. Campus Donates Hundreds of Meals for Students

In the third annual SEC Game Winning Food Drive, the University of Kentucky collected 825 cans of food to stock the shelves of Big Blue Pantry, a UK students' food bank. That's nearly eight times last year's collection total. Created in 2013 by the Campus Recreation Department at UK and the University of Tennessee, this was the food drive's most successful drive to date. During the month of November, seven schools in the Southeastern Conference raised a total 123,525 food items, or approximately 96,500 pounds of food, providing approximately 80,400 meals to over 31,650 families.

10. Researchers Find Medicaid Expansion Improves Access to Mental Health Services

Results from a collaborative study involving researchers at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health and Emory's Rollins School of Public Health suggest the ongoing Medicaid expansions under the Affordable Care Act have the potential to improve health insurance coverage and access to behavioral health care among low-income adults with mental health and substance use disorders. The findings show that among those adults, state implementation of Medicaid expansions reduced the rate of uninsured individuals and perceived unmet need for behavioral health care and increased outpatient mental health treatment.

11. UK Research Team Helps Share Ancient Manuscripts With the World

A digital research team in the Collaboratory for Research in Computing for Humanities of the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences was instrumental in the recent opening of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library's public "virtual" presence. Now, one of the world's leading libraries for manuscript studies has a virtual library that the curious and studious alike can share, with images presented using the newest technology for zooming and panning high-resolution photographs.

12. Neurogastronomy Symposium at UK Begins Pursuit of Solutions for the Taste Impaired

In December, more than 200 scientists, patients, chefs, foodies and others gathered at UK for the inaugural International Society of Neurogastronomy Symposium, sharing their knowledge and exploring opportunities to improve quality of life for people who have lost their perception of taste or smell due to cancer, brain injury, stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or other neurological disorders.

13. UK HealthCare Featured as Equality Leader in the 2016 Healthcare Equality Index

UK HealthCare will be featured as an Equality Leader in the 2016 Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation based in Washington D.C. The HEI was created to give health care facilities the resources they need to ensure LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) patients have access to patient-centered care. UK HealthCare's achievement was granted based on four core criteria: patient nondiscrimination policies, visitation policies, employment nondiscrimination policies, and training in LGBT patient-centered care.

14. UK Employees 'Stepping Up' Their Physical Activity with Fitbit Promotion

As a part of UK's LiveWell initiative, UK employees were eligible to purchase a Fitbit device for as low as \$19 if they committed to participate in the UK LiveWell Step Up physical activity challenge. The response to the promotion was outstanding. More than 8,500 UK employees signed up for the challenge and purchased a Fitbit at a reduced price through a subsidy from UK Health and Wellness. The Step Up challenge gives employees the opportunity to earn UK gear by tracking their steps. Anyone with a fitness tracking device such as a Fitbit, Jawbone, Misfit, Garmin, etc. can participate in the challenge.

15. UK Earns a STARS Silver Rating for Leadership in Sustainability

The University of Kentucky has earned a STARS Silver Rating in recognition of its sustainability efforts from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, measures sustainability performance within academics, engagement, operations, and planning and administration. Rating more than 700 institutions on six continents, STARS is the world's most widely recognized standard for higher education sustainability.

16. Seven Projects Receive UK Sustainability Challenge Grants Totaling \$200,000

The University of Kentucky President's Sustainability Advisory Committee awarded nearly \$200,000 in funding to seven sustainability projects. The interdisciplinary projects selected to receive UK Sustainability Challenge Grants ranged from developing a solar powered tractor to empowering youth with sustainability education. The program is a joint effort of the Tracy Farmer Institute for Sustainability and the Environment, UK Office of Sustainability and the President's Sustainability Advisory Committee. Funding is provided by the Student Sustainability Council, the Office of the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

17. UK College of Law, Arts and Sciences Team Up To Offer 6-Year BA + JD Program

A new collaboration between the University of Kentucky College of Law and College of Arts and Sciences will allow students seeking a law degree to save time and money by graduating in six years instead of seven. The UK BLUE (Bachelor-to-Law Undergraduate Education) program is open to incoming freshmen who know early on they plan to pursue a law degree. The program

reduces total tuition costs by one year and exposes students to the practice and study of law early on in their undergraduate career.

18. Air Force ROTC Cadets Run 29 Miles in Honor of POW/MIAs

The University of Kentucky Air Force ROTC Detachment 290 cadets commemorated POW/MIAs with an annual 29-mile run from Lexington to Frankfort in November 2015. More than 100 AFROTC cadets and faculty from UK and the University of Louisville participated in the run along Old Frankfort Pike, including 18 cadets who ran the entire 29 miles. The Kentucky State Police, the Air Force Association, Boy Scouts of America Troop 457, Turning Point Church, Civil Air Patrol, Scott County JROTC, and the Navy Sea Cadets supported the runners along the route.

19. UK's Inaugural #GivingTuesday Campaign Attracts More Than 130 Online Gifts

Officials with the University of Kentucky's Office of Philanthropy celebrated following its inaugural participation in #GivingTuesday, a global day set aside for individuals to support their favorite nonprofit organizations and charities through online giving and social media. Participating units in UK's #GivingTuesday campaign attracted 131 online gifts and generated \$17,556 on Dec. 1. This equates to an average gift of \$134.01.

20. la Madeleine Opens at The 90 With Country French Cuisine

Last semester the University of Kentucky welcomed la Madeleine Country French Café to campus. The café is located at The 90. The decision to bring la Madeleine to UK came as part of a student dining survey, from which strong student interest resulted in support of bringing the country French bakery café to Lexington. Each la Madeleine café is built to provide a relaxing "home away from home" with a modern country French design.

21. Shriners and Patients Celebrate Topping Out of New Facility at UK

Shriners Hospitals for Children and UK HealthCare celebrated an important milestone in the construction of the \$47 million Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center on Dec. 1 — the "topping out" of the new building. Construction began March 9, 2015, on the five-story medical center located at the corner of Conn Terrace and South Limestone, on the UK HealthCare campus across from the University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital. "Topping out" is the construction term used to indicate that the final steel beam is being placed on the building. Patients, caregivers, and Shriners signed the 30-foot, 1,200-lb steel beam before it was lifted into place at the ceremony.

22. UK December Commencement Ceremonies Held in Rupp Arena for First Time

UK's December Commencement was held in Rupp Arena for the first time in 2015. The December ceremonies had taken place in Memorial Coliseum since they began in 2010. The change was necessary due to the growing number of participants and their guests. Approximately 830 undergraduates and nearly 200 graduate and professional students participated in the

ceremonies. Overall, a total of 1,788 undergraduate, 936 graduate and 113 professional degrees were conferred for August and December 2015.

23. Hardin Memorial Health Joins Markey Research Network

Hardin Memorial Health (HMH) has joined the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center Research Network, allowing patients across Central Kentucky to participate in clinical trials in Elizabethtown. Physicians and other leaders from HMH and the UK Markey Cancer Center celebrated the new partnership at the HMH Cancer Care Center in Elizabethtown in December. In recognition of this higher level of patient care, HMH cancer patients attended the event and hung holiday ornaments in awareness of some of the area's most prevalent cancers.

24. Financial Wellness Center Cultivates Student Financial Literacy

The University of Kentucky recently launched the UK Student Financial Wellness Center — a program designed to impart financial knowledge upon undergraduate, graduate and prospective students. The center responds to a rising issue within higher education. The center's efforts to help improve student financial wellness will include strategies such as peer coaching, financial wellness seminars, online education programs, and purposeful collaboration with academic departments.

25. The Arboretum Honored With Awards From Fayette Alliance

The Arboretum, Kentucky's official state botanical garden and a part of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, recently received two awards at the Fayette Alliance Awards program. The Fayette Alliance Awards celebrate pioneering and enduring initiatives that help the organization achieve its mission of growing the city of Lexington and promoting its farms. The first award presented to The Arboretum is for excellence in Environmental Stewardship. The second award received by The Arboretum is called the "People's Choice" award and involved an online voting competition. The "People's Choice" award was selected from the Agricultural Excellence, Innovative Development, and Environmental Stewardship award recipients.

26. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Terry Bunn (College of Public Health, Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center) has been appointed as a member of an independent advisory committee to the director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Kenny Burdine (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) is the recipient of Kentucky Farm Bureau's 30th annual Farm Public Relations Award.

James Campbell (College of Fine Arts) has been named the recipient of the 2015 Yamaha Legacy Award.

Manuel Gonzales (Department of English) has been selected as a judge for the 2016 PEN/Fusion Emerging Writers Prize.

Laura Hancock (College of Dentistry) was named a Kentucky Oral Health Champion by the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition.

Jim Hower (Center for Applied Energy Research) and several colleagues received funding on three of 10 U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory projects.

I.S. Jawahir (College of Engineering, Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing) is the first U.S. winner of the William Johnson International Gold Medal.

Nancy Jones (College of Fine Arts) has been named the winner of Kentucky's National Society of Arts and Letters Distinguished Arts Educator Award.

Ying Liang (College of Medicine) received a \$1.88 million grant, dispersed over five years, from the National Institutes of Health to study prevention of stem cell damage during cancer treatment.

Carlos Marin (College of Medicine) has been appointed to serve on the board of directors for the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Rachel Shane (College of Fine Arts) has been named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society.

Zixue Tai (School of Journalism and Telecommunications) served as a judge in reviewing credentials and candidacies among science reporters in China for the 2016 EurekAlert! Fellowships for International Science Reporters Program.

Bradley Taylor (College of Medicine) received a five-year, \$3 million research grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to better understand the physiological mechanisms of chronic pain.

Mark V. Williams (College of Medicine) has been named to the advisory board of The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety.

Allan Richards and Ann Christianson (School of Art and Visual Studies) received a grant from the U.S. Alzheimer's Disease Centers to study the effects of visual arts activities on quality of life for people with dementia.

Edith Glazer, Sean Parkin and graduate student researchers Erin Wachter and Diego Moya (Department of Chemistry) developed metal complexes to study cancer. The work, published in Chemistry - A European Journal, was named a "Hot Paper" for its importance in a rapidly evolving field of high interest.

Matt Dawson (College of Medicine), Wallis Miller (College of Design), Gurney Norman (College of Arts and Sciences), Brett Spear (College of Medicine), Tammy Stephenson (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment), and Amy Murrell Taylor (College of Arts and Sciences) were named recipients of the UK Alumni Association 2016 Great Teacher Award.

27. Student Achievements

Morgan Bergren (Kinesiology, of Muncie, Indiana), a member of the UK volleyball team, was named to the Academic All-American First Team by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Makayla Epps (Social Work, of Lebanon, Kentucky), a member of the women's basketball team, was named ESPNW's National Player of the Week.

Rebecca Blair (Human Nutrition, of Louisville) and Austin E. Kirk (Biology, of Louisville) were awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad this spring.

Sha'Keela Saunders (Kinesiology, of Suffolk, Virginia), a member of the UK track and field/cross country program, was named National Athlete of the Week by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Two University of Kentucky Venture Bootcamp teams with an equine focus recently earned top spots in their respective divisions during a local entrepreneurial contest for startup pitches.

28. Alumni Achievements

Ashley Lamb-Sinclair (College of Education) was named the 2016 Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

Wendell Berry (English, 1956) will receive the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle in March.