

Office of the President
September 11, 2020

1. UK Taking Major Steps to Create Culture Change Around Diversity, Equity

In July, President Eli Capilouto announced creation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Implementation Plan, a campuswide effort to change the culture around diversity and social justice. A leadership team, chaired by Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright, was formed as well as a workgroup, communications group, and advisory groups composed of hundreds of volunteers from campus. In August, Capilouto and faculty leaders in the African American and Africana Studies program announced establishment of the proposed Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies — a multidisciplinary program that will highlight UK's growing research around issues of race and racism. Also, a five-year, \$10 million commitment was announced to sponsor UK research focused on racial disparities and inequity across broad areas, ranging from health to the historical foundations of systemic racism. The UNITED in racial Equity (UNITE) Research Initiative is being designated a research priority area — joining six other such research programs across the campus studying: cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, energy, neuroscience, and substance use disorders. The proposed institute, which will require approval by the University Senate, and the overall research initiative, represent a historic commitment by UK to racial disparities and equity. In a first step to creating a community united against systemic racism, Capilouto further announced that approximately 50 senior administrators will undergo anti-racist training led by Candice Hargons, a professor in UK's College of Education. She is a counseling psychologist with a national reputation in facilitating trainings and workshops in anti-racist work.

2. Health Corps Created to Support Health, Safety Among UK Family After Restart

Organized by Student and Academic Life and a component part of the University's response to COVID-19, Health Corps is driven by a collaborative group of University leaders spanning several campus units. Major projects UK Health Corps is managing for the fall semester include: health and wellness symptom screening for all students, faculty, and staff; student and employee testing or referrals; contact tracing; wellness stations and kits; providing information about masks and personal protective equipment; and collaborating with campus partners to communicate about key issues including increased cleaning and sanitation practices as well as newly created outdoor locations for gatherings and events.

3. UK Launches Civil Rights and Education Initiative With NAACP

The University of Kentucky College of Education and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's largest and most preeminent civil rights organization, are launching a groundbreaking collaboration. NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, NAACP Chairman Leon W. Russell, UK Provost David Blackwell, and UK College of Education Dean Julian Vasquez Heilig have signed an agreement to develop an education and research initiative focused on educational equity, civil rights, and social justice. The initiative will support the NAACP's continued advancement toward ensuring all disadvantaged students and students of color have access to excellent teaching, equitable resources, and a challenging curriculum. This is the first time the NAACP has partnered with university-based scholars in the education field to help address racial inequities in the nation's education system.

4. UK HealthCare Garners National and State Rankings

For the fifth consecutive year, UK HealthCare's Chandler Hospital has been named the No. 1 hospital in Kentucky and the Bluegrass Region by the 2020-21 Best Hospitals rankings from U.S. News & World Report. For the fourth straight year, Markey Cancer Center has earned a top 50 national ranking for cancer care, at No. 29. Additionally, five adult specialties were ranked as high performing: Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Surgery, Geriatrics, Nephrology, Orthopedics, and Urology. Seven common adult procedures and conditions also received a high-performing designation: Aortic Valve Surgery, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Colon Cancer Surgery, Heart Bypass Surgery, Heart Failure, Hip Replacement, and Lung Cancer Surgery. UK HealthCare's Kentucky Children's Hospital (KCH) is ranked nationally in two specialties in the 2020-21 Best Children's Hospitals rankings. KCH and Cincinnati Children's Joint Pediatric Heart Program is ranked 14th in the country in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery. KCH, in association with Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center — Lexington is ranked 40th in the country for pediatric orthopaedic care.

5. Record-breaking Grants, Contracts Power UK Innovation in 2020

For the first time in UK history, faculty received \$429.2 million in competitive research awards last Fiscal Year. This is a 3% increase from FY19, which itself was a record-breaking 25% increase from the previous year. Federal grants and contracts, which are highly competitive, totaled \$272.2 million, 63.4% of UK's total awards in FY20. Federal awards increased by 13% overall. In total for FY20, UK successfully competed for 1,710 grants and contracts, submitted by 771 researchers to more than 580 funding agencies.

6. Cancer, COVID, and the Kentucky Economy: How This Plant Could Make an Impact

UK researchers are studying a medicinal plant called *Artemisia annua* (also known as sweet wormwood) to determine its effectiveness in treating cancer and COVID-19. A clinical study, conducted by researchers at the Markey Cancer Center, will focus on women with ovarian cancer. UK researchers are also following up on German studies that have shown extract from the plant may be active against SARS-CoV2, the virus that has caused the COVID-19 pandemic. The new potential treatment has been added to the University of Kentucky's innovative clinical trial for experimental COVID-19 therapies. Meanwhile, researchers in the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center, part of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, have been working with this plant for the last two years to explore the possibility of growing *Artemisia annua* in the state as an alternative to tobacco, due to the plants' remarkably similar production processes.

7. UK First in Kentucky to Offer One-time Microseed Radiation Therapy for Breast Cancer

The Markey Cancer Center is the first medical facility in Kentucky to offer Concure Oncology's Microseed radiation therapy for patients with early-stage breast cancer. Already widely used to successfully treat prostate cancer, Microseed radiation significantly reduces the number of times a patient has to come in for treatment. Traditional breast cancer radiation therapy consists of daily treatments for as long as three to six weeks. Concure's Breast Microseed Treatment® is a one-time, one-hour procedure for early-stage breast cancer patients who have already undergone surgery to remove cancerous tissue from the breast (lumpectomy). Markey is also the first center in the U.S. to have physicians who are trained to perform the procedure using a tiny 'localizer needle' into the intended treatment area under ultrasound and/or CT (computed tomography) guidance.

8. State, UK, and UK HealthCare Offer Free Community COVID-19 Testing

The Commonwealth of Kentucky's Department for Public Health partnered with the University of Kentucky and UK HealthCare to offer free drive-up COVID-19 testing for the community that began August 24 at two sites. UK continued its partnership with Wild Health, a Lexington-based company that conducted COVID-19 testing for University students and employees. The testing sites are a new parking lot on College Way near the UK motor pool on the far southern edge of campus and the grounds of Eastern State Hospital, which UK operates and manages for the state. Eastern State is located at UK's Coldstream Research Campus.

9. CURE Alliance Uniting COVID-19 Research Across UK

UK's COVID-19 Unified Research Experts (CURE) Alliance team has expanded to represent and support the full range of COVID-related research taking place at the University. The first CURE Alliance was launched in early spring to organize and support COVID-19 related medical research. UK has since added two additional CURE Alliance structures in other COVID-19 research areas: Materials/Methods and Social Sciences. Together, these groups are working to foster innovative, interdisciplinary COVID-19 research. The Health CURE Alliance, led by Rebecca Dutch, in UK's College of Medicine, is focused on advising COVID-19 patient care and clinical trials based on emerging research and potential treatment options. The Materials/Methods CURE Alliance, led by Brad Berron of UK's College of Engineering, is focused on the materials and tools that address emerging COVID-19 needs, as well as technological advancements in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Priority areas include impact on food infrastructure and access, detection support, and PPE-related research and production. The Social Sciences CURE Alliance, led by Julie Cerel in the UK College of Social Work, aims to examine COVID-19's impact on mental health, family, and interpersonal relationships, as well as health communication and health literacy. Additional priorities of this core include COVID-19-related health disparities and how new laws and policies will impact service providers and essential workers.

10. Alpacas Could be the Secret Weapon Against COVID-19

Alpacas Big Boy, Blue Eyes, and Emperor may hold the key to combating COVID-19. Their antibodies could offer a defense against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the disease. College of Medicine researchers are using the special antibodies made by alpacas, called nanobodies, to help understand the novel coronavirus and potentially develop a treatment that could protect people from being infected. Sidney Whiteheart and Lou Hersh, co-leaders of the study, are professors in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry in the College of Medicine.

11. NIH Awards \$11.2 Million for Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation Center

UK was recently awarded a prestigious Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence grant to study translational chemical biology from the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The \$11.2 million grant will fund UK's Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Pharmaceutical Research and Innovation (CPRI). Jon Thorson, a professor in the College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the principal investigator on this grant, serves as CPRI director.

12. UK Federal Credit Union Acquires Naming Rights for Esports Lounge, Theater

The longstanding relationship between UK and the UK Federal Credit Union is expanding. The credit union and JMI Sports, UK's multimedia rights partner, announced a naming rights partnership with the University for the esports complex in The Cornerstone, a new multiuse facility under construction at the corner of South Limestone

and Winslow Street. The UK Federal Credit Union Esports Lounge and Theater will be the new home for UK's burgeoning esports program and part of UK's innovative plan to become a global leader in esports and higher education.

13. NSF Awards KY-WV LSAMP \$1 Million

The Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (KY-WV LSAMP), spearheaded by UK, has been awarded over \$1 million from the National Science Foundation to support UK graduate students pursuing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The grant will fund a Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) initiative for KY-WV LSAMP, a consortium of 10 colleges and universities working together to broaden participation and increase the quality and quantity of underrepresented students in STEM. The new program will support 12 BD fellows from underrepresented populations who are pursuing graduate degrees in STEM disciplines at UK.

14. The 90, Kentucky Proud Park Earn LEED Certification

The free-standing dining commons The 90 and Kentucky Proud Park, the home of University of Kentucky baseball, have been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for environmental performance and sustainable design. The LEED rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is the foremost program for buildings, homes, and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained, and operated for improved environmental and human health performance. The 90 and Kentucky Proud Park join the Joe Craft Football Training Facility, Kroger Field, and the Gatton College of Business and Economics as LEED-certified UK facilities.

15. Over \$200,000 Awarded in Sustainability Grants

Ten teams of University of Kentucky students, faculty, and staff will begin work on sustainability projects in the Fall 2020 semester after being selected to receive Sustainability Challenge Grants totaling more than \$200,000. This is the largest cohort of teams in the six-year history of this program. The Sustainability Challenge Grant program is designed to engage multidisciplinary teams from the University community in the creation and implementation of ideas that will promote sustainability by simultaneously advancing economic vitality, ecological integrity, and social equity. To read descriptions of each project and information on the departments and individual team members involved, please visit www.uky.edu/sustainability/2020-challenge-grant-recipients.

16. OLLI Celebrated 100th Birthday of One of its Participants

Helen Evans, University of Kentucky alumna, teacher, and captain in the Women's Army Corps, earned a new title as oldest member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UK. On June 11, she celebrated her 100th birthday with a surprise physically distanced birthday parade organized by OLLI, which offers educational and enrichment

courses, forums, shared interest groups, trips, events, and more for adults 50 years and older. Evans has been involved in OLLI at UK for 15 years.

17. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Donna Amaral-Phillips (College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment) received the American Dairy Science Association's 2020 DeLaval Dairy Extension Award.

Betsy Beymer-Farris (College of Arts and Sciences) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Thomas Cochell (College of Engineering) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Gabriel Dadi (College of Engineering) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Sarah D'Orazio (College of Medicine) won a UK 2020 Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

Matthew Godbey (College of Arts and Sciences) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Lisa Higgins-Hord (Community Engagement) was elected chair of Lexington's Carnegie Center Board of Trustees; also appointed by Lexington's mayor to fill out the term of the Urban County Council's 6th District member.

Mary Howard (Human Development Institute) chosen as a Children's Mental Health Champion by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

Kathryn (Rosie) Lanphere (College of Education) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Nika Larian (College of Medicine) has been awarded a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Catherine Linnen (College of Arts and Sciences) won a UK 2020 Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

Diane Loeffler (College of Social Work) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Reshma Ramlal (Markey Cancer Center) was named the 2020 Lexington Woman of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Gerald Smith (College of Arts and Sciences) was appointed as co-chair of the Lexington Commission for Racial Justice and Equality.

Jeramiah Smith (College of Arts and Sciences) won a UK 2020 Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.

Tukea Talbert (UK HealthCare) was appointed vice chair of the Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Lexington Commission for Racial Justice and Equality.

Gretchen Wells (Women's Heart Program at the Gill Heart and Vascular Institute) has been selected to receive the American Heart Association's Council on Clinical Cardiology 2020 Women in Cardiology Mentoring Award.

Lovoria Williams (College of Nursing) was appointed vice chair of the Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Lexington Commission for Racial Justice and Equality.

UK's Ken Freedman Day of Recognition Award winners are: Innovative Advising - College of Communication and Information Advising Team; Advocate in Advising - Shari

Veil (College of Communication and Information); Outstanding New Advisor - Rachel Dixon (College of Communication and Information); 2019-2020 Outstanding Faculty Advisor - Conrad Davies (College of Communication and Information); Empowerment Leadership in Administration - Sara Price (Office of Undergraduate Admission); and 2019-2020 Outstanding Professional Advisor - Bethany Fugate (Gatton College of Business and Economics).

18. Student Achievements

Edward Lee Bullock (Anthropology) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award for a teaching assistant.

Juan Fernandez-Cantero (Hispanic Studies) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award for a teaching assistant.

Bruce Haupt (doctoral candidate in College of Education) awarded a 2020 National Academy of Education Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

Jahgethea Johnson (Agricultural Economics) was elected undergraduate student vice president for Region III of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences.

Jennifer Murray (English) won a UK 2020 Outstanding Teaching Award for a teaching assistant.

19. Alumni Achievements

Michael W. Anderson (Accounting, of Greenville, Indiana) received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Jakob Burnham (International Studies and Modern and Classical Languages/ French and Francophone, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky) received the 2020 Fulbright-Nehru Open Study/Research award from India.

Eli Capilouto (UK President) received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Ruth Day (Accounting, of Jacksonville, Florida) received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Antoine S. Huffman (Telecommunications, of Prosper, Texas) was elected treasurer of the UK Alumni Association.

Evan Lenzen (Psychology, of Woodstock, Illinois) received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach in the Ukraine.

Erin Carr Logan (Accounting, of Seattle, Washington) won the UK Alumni Association's Joseph T. Burch Young Alumni Award.

Hannah Miner Myers (Education, of Madisonville, Kentucky) was elected president of the UK Alumni Association.

Jane Cobb Pickering (Education, Chattanooga, Tennessee) received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Mary L. Shelman (Engineering, of Belmont, Massachusetts) was elected president-elect of the UK Alumni Association.

Fritz Skeen (Business Administration, MBA, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida) received the UK Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award.

Anthony Trufanov (Political Science, Modern and Classical Languages, Literatures and Cultures/Russian, of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois) received a Fulbright Debate Coach/Trainer Award to serve as a debate coach/trainer in Taiwan.

David Wakaba (Political Science, from Louisville, Kentucky) received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach in South Korea.

Brittney Woodrum (Arts Administration, Spanish, of Winchester, Kentucky) received a 2020 Boren Fellowship to study language in Yangon, Myanmar.

Shelley Zhou (History, of Louisville, Kentucky) received a Fulbright Research Grant to pursue research in China.