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Office of the President
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1. New Research Facility Shows What Kentucky Can Do

On September 21, UK officials and many of the Commonwealth's leading policy makers celebrated the opening of a research facility expressly devoted to addressing and eradicating the state's most significant health disparities. The \$265 million facility — paid for by a combination of state funds and private philanthropy — will bring together basic scientists, clinicians, engineers, and behavioral scientists, among others — to address the state's most pronounced health disparities. Ultimately, some 500 scientists, principal investigators, graduate and undergraduate students will work in the unique facility, which brings together experts across disciplines around the idea of more quickly developing solutions and getting them into communities where they can make a difference.

2. UK Recognized With 3 National Diversity Awards

For the second consecutive year, the University of Kentucky has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award and further recognized as a 2018 Diversity Champion by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, one of only 15 universities nationally to receive the honor. The HEED Award recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus. To be recognized as a Diversity Champion two consecutive years is quite unusual, according to Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of INSIGHT into Diversity magazine. In addition, UK has been declared "Best of the Best" Top 30 LGBTQ-friendly college by Campus Pride. Annually, Campus Pride releases its list highlighting the campuses that are setting the highest standards nationally for LGBTQ-inclusion in policy, program, and practice.

3. Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening of UK College of Medicine Bowling Green Campus

On October 12, a ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus. The celebration of the new home for faculty, staff, and the inaugural class of 30 students was also an opportunity to thank the medical school's partners – Med Center Health, Western Kentucky University, and the community of Bowling Green. The college encompasses 24,000-square-feet on the second floor of the newest building at Med Center Health. Amenities of the second floor include a computer lab, two large classrooms, four multi-purpose, six small group rooms, and eight simulation and standardized patient rooms. The UK College of Medicine-Bowling Green Campus is a fully functioning campus, utilizing the exact curriculum and assessments as UK's Lexington campus.

4. UK Sports Medicine Awarded \$4 Million From U.S. Department of Defense

The University of Kentucky Sports Medicine Research Institute (SMRI) received a \$4 million research contract from the United States Department of Defense (DOD) and Office of Naval Research to expand research focused on determining optimal physical and mental fitness among elite U.S. military members. For the last three years, the SMRI has worked with the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command human performance program at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to study injury prevention and create new ways to optimize physical performance in its personnel. Optimal preparation for tactical training and deployment requires high levels of physical and mental performance. This award will support the development of a tool that can be used by special operations forces command to determine this overall preparedness of their personnel and respond with earlier interventions for injury prevention.

5. KY-WV LSAMP Program Receives \$35 Million to Diversify Stem Graduates

The Kentucky-West Virginia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (KY-WV LSAMP) consortium, spearheaded by the University of Kentucky, has received \$3.5 million in renewed funding over the next five years by the National Science Foundation. The award will assist the alliance's 10 institutions of higher learning from across the two states to continue its efforts in increasing the number of underrepresented students completing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Though the representation of groups such as black and Hispanic Americans is increasing in society, these groups are still underrepresented in the STEM fields. Programs such as LSAMP help to increase the numbers by recruiting, supporting, and preparing highly qualified students from these underrepresented populations.

6. New Simulation Center Will Help Improve Medical Education

UK HealthCare opened the doors to a new, state-of-the-art simulation facility October 5. The approximately 7,000 square feet of space, located on the second floor of Chandler Hospital, will house technology needed for multidisciplinary training and research to advance patient safety and educate today's students and tomorrow's health care providers. The UK HealthCare Simulation Center houses rooms that simulate clinical scenarios from acute care, intensive care units, and operating suites. All simulation rooms are equipped with cameras, microphones, and speakers for recording and playback debriefing of simulation scenarios.

7. UK Named Future Home of Governor's School for the Arts

Officials with University of Kentucky and The Kentucky Center announced October 23, that UK was named the future home of The Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts (GSA), an annual three-week intensive summer arts residency program for Kentucky high school sophomores and juniors. Beginning in 2019, UK College of Fine Arts will host the program for four years. GSA most recently resided at Centre College, where it has been presented for the last five years. UK was selected as host campus after a request for proposals process.

8. UK Working to Ensure Food and Housing Security Among Students

Ensuring student success and well-being by meeting basic needs is a challenge for colleges and communities across the nation, where it is estimated that one in six adults and one in five children do not know from where their next meal will come. Food insecurity, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the “limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods due to lack of financial resources.” The University of Kentucky is committed to making food security a priority. The Food and Housing Security Workgroup, established by the Dean of Students, is working to coordinate the university’s activities. One of the latest examples of a multi-pronged effort to address food insecurity is a new program to provide free meals for eligible students at UK dining facilities for the duration of the fall semester. Dubbed Swipe Ahead, students can apply to be considered for free meal swipes while supplies last. UK has several ongoing efforts in place to assist students.

9. UK Dining Launches Two New Local Food Initiatives

The University of Kentucky, through its UK Dining operation, launched two new Kentucky farm impact-purchasing initiatives this semester, which are having a significant positive impact on the farm economy in Central Kentucky. The Local Salad Bar Initiative and the Marksbury Farm Whole Animal Program are expected to provide a stable and predictable market for producers. The Local Salad Bar is bringing fresh, colorful greens and toppings to the salad bars in two campus dining locations, the Fresh Food Company and Champions Kitchen. The six partner farms all are located within 80 miles of the UK campus and the product is being brought to campus by the Bluegrass Food Connection, a consortium of local farmers. This will result in 24,000 lbs. of produce being purchased by UK Dining from these farms for school year 2018-2019. The Marksbury Farm Whole Animal Program will source Kentucky raised beef and pork for use in both major residential dining hall facilities. UK Dining is purchasing three cattle and five hogs each week from Marksbury Farm, a food hub and USDA inspected processing plant located in Lancaster, Kentucky. Over the course of the school year, UK Dining will purchase 37,000 lbs. of beef and 20,000 lbs. of pork.

10. MLK Center and LGBTQ Resources Unveils New Spaces

On October 12, The University of Kentucky brought diversity to life as it unveiled two new spaces in the Gatton Student Center. The UK Office for Institutional Diversity revealed both the Martin Luther King Center’s new suite of offices and student-activities space and the new Dinkle-Mas Suite, the main hub for student activity in the university’s Office of LGBTQ* Resources. The MLK Center's celebration began that morning with a dedication ceremony followed by a welcoming reception for its new director, Jason Brooks. The opening of the LGBTQ* Resources' redesigned Dinkel-Mas Suite took place with a ribbon cutting that afternoon.

11. UK HealthCare Receives Rising Star Award

UK HealthCare has received a 2018 Vizient Rising Star Award for recognition as a top performer in making significant improvements in their year-over-year rankings in the Vizient

annual Quality and Accountability Study. The annual study identifies exemplary performance in safety, mortality, clinical effectiveness, efficiency, patient-centeredness, and equity of care. The Vizient Quality and Accountability Study measures performance based on the Institute of Medicine's six domains of care: safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient-centeredness. The award was presented on October 4 during the 2018 Vizient Connections Summit held in Las Vegas.

12. Faculty and Staff Achievements

Doug Appler (College of Design) is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for his project "Reassessing the History of Urban Renewal in the United States, 1950-1975."

Christopher Barton and Kenton Sena (College of Agriculture, Food and Environment) were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to modernize the stream monitoring network at UK's Robinson Forest.

Ann Morris (College of Arts and Sciences) has received \$1.87 million from the National Institutes of Health to continue her cutting-edge research in retinal regeneration.

Leslie Scott (College of Nursing) is the 2018 recipient of the Dickinson Wright Nurse of the Year Award.

Suzanne Smith (College of Engineering) was selected to be part of a four-member team, comprised by the City of Louisville, to compete in the 2018 Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayor's Challenge, which recognizes innovative ideas aimed at tackling urgent problems.

Eugenia Toma (Martin School of Public Policy) has been selected by the National Academy of Public Administration for inclusion in its 2018 Class of Academy Fellows.

Rebecca Volpe (Small Business Development Center) was named the Sutton Landry State Star by the American Small Business Development Center.

Olivia Yinger (School of Music) was named Associate Editor of the Journal of Music Therapy.

13. Student Achievements

Esther Putman (Biology and Neuroscience of Lexington, Kentucky) was named one of 2018's 50 recipients of a \$10,000 scholarship from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation.

The University of Kentucky Intercollegiate Debate Team is ranked top in the nation for the first time since 1995.

14. Alumni Achievements

David Allen (Statistics), Jennifer Garr (Topical Studies), Bruce Lunsford (Political Science), Rodney Page (Political Science), LaVon V. Williams (General Studies), and Sheldon M. Steiner (Biology) were inducted into the 2018 College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame.