



Dear Friends,

I am truly thrilled to call the University of Louisville my home. Upon my arrival, I set out to understand the priorities, concerns and ethos of this great university through more than 30 listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, community leaders and other friends of the university. Clearly, we have many reasons to be proud. Likewise, excellence is always a work in progress. Recently, I shared my eight presidential priorities with the UofL community:

1. Improve Communication and Trust – Increasing the efficiency of on-campus communication, and making our story and contributions better known by our community.
2. Execute a Plan to Enhance Research – Implementing a Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Strategic Plan to strengthen UofL's status as a premier metropolitan research university.
3. Advance Inclusion and Institutional Equity – Keeping our students at the center of our mission so that all can thrive to reach their fullest potential.
4. Make Inclusive Student Success a Top Priority – Raising our 6-year undergraduate graduation rate to 70% and eliminating completion gaps for several demographic groups.
5. Establish "Systemness" and Process and Practice – Centralizing key systems and business processes to eliminate frustration and ensure quality outcomes.
6. Retell our Contemporary Story – Proudly broadcasting UofL's growth and incredible achievements, improving its reputation and rankings across our nation and the world.
7. Create a Coordinated Community Engagement Plan – Identifying community needs and focusing our efforts where we can make the most impact through our nationally distinguished involvement.
8. Complete Implementation of the Compensation Study – Completing the study with the goal of creating and implementing a market-based competitively positioned compensation program for faculty and staff.

These priorities will not be realized in a day, a week or even a year. But I am confident we will make serious progress for the bright future of this great university.

Kim Schatzel, PhD  
President  
University of Louisville



## Thousands arrive for '23-'24 school year

This year, University Housing and the Resident Experience is projecting almost 100% occupancy, with more than 3,900 University of Louisville students moving into campus housing to begin their college experience.

UofL President Kim Schatzel and her husband, Trevor Iles, were on hand at Belknap Campus to greet newly arriving students and families.

Why do so many choose UofL? Many new students point to the university's diverse population. The location also has its perks, being in the heart of the city and therefore close to home for many Louisville natives, reflecting its vibrant and active environment.

Dozens of Welcome Week activities took place for incoming, commuting and transfer students, causing the campus to buzz with life. These ranged from scavenger hunts, yard games and sunrise yoga to Louisville bike tours, a "Taste of Louisville" lunch and of course a night pep rally at L&N Federal Credit Union Stadium.

## Speed School opens STEM+ Hub for K-12 students, community

A new space dedicated to hosting K-12 students for summer camps, class field trips and after-school activities is now open at the University of Louisville. The STEM+ Hub was designed and is operated by the J.B. Speed School of Engineering.

The STEM+ Hub is equipped to facilitate a variety of K-12 student enrichment opportunities, as well as activities such as hackathons, junk bot racing, rocket building, VEX and First Robotics competitions, mentoring, learner and teacher workshops. The suite consists of a makerspace with 12 3D printers and instructional, conference and office space.

This engagement is critical to increasing the pipeline of students interested in working in STEM and health care disciplines and will help recruit undergraduate students to the STEM+H degree programs at UofL.





## University of Louisville recognized for exemplary community engagement project

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities has awarded the University of Louisville with recognition for its exemplary community engagement project, Age-Friendly Louisville, a partnership of UofL's Trager Institute, Metro Louisville, AARP and the Kentuckiana Regional Planning & Development Agency Area Agency on Aging. The award helps to enhance UofL's national profile in community-engaged scholarship.

The Trager Institute guided the creation of a strategic plan using needs assessment and community engagement approaches, including listening sessions, concept mapping methods and presentations to the public.

With 40% of Louisville's population projected to be 60 years or older by 2050, creating an environment where seniors could age well is essential to ensuring the city continues to thrive. UofL is proud to be a part of efforts making this possible.

## UofL researchers land nearly \$12 million to study microorganisms and disease

UofL researchers received \$11.7 million to study microorganisms throughout the body, supporting research by three faculty members focused on microorganisms in the mouth, GI tract and the blood-brain barrier. What they find could lead to better understanding and treatment of a range of chronic conditions.

The five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health is an extension of a Center of Biomedical Research Excellence grant awarded in 2018 to study the connection between those microorganisms — such as bacteria, yeasts, fungi, viruses and protozoans — and disease. The work could lead to discoveries in, among others, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, periodontitis and colorectal cancer.

The original grant allowed UofL to establish an interdisciplinary research program to study associations linking microbiome with inflammation and disease. The grant provides junior research faculty with seed funding to build potential for independent research funding. The first five faculty involved are continuing their research with other financial support.



## UofL scientists invent antimicrobial surfaces inspired by cicada wings

A team of UofL faculty and student scientists has studied the qualities of a cicada wing to invent a nanofabrication technique for creating surfaces that, like the wing, are antibacterial and water repellent. The team, led by Kevin Walsh, Chuang Qu and Mark Running, contribute their success to UofL's state-of-the-art facilities which include machinery that can operate at the nano level.

Cicada wings' antibacterial properties in particular interested UofL engineers. Along with UofL biologists, the team analyzed the nanostructure of the insects' wings and developed a nanofabrication technique to replicate it for potential use in spaces where bacteria are undesirable, such as food service, health care facilities and medical devices.

The team has filed a provisional patent on a process called "inverted GLAD" to create materials such as the cicada wing replication and is seeking to hire students to assist with additional research.

