

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2023

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

UK NAMED AMONG NATION'S TOP 10 LARGE EMPLOYERS BY FORBES MAGAZINE

The University of Kentucky has been named on Forbes' America's Best Large Employers list, ranking sixth out of 500 total companies and second in the education category. Other organizations listed in the top 10 include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Mayo Clinic and Fidelity Investments, placing UK among some of the most prominent companies in the nation.

Forbes and Statista selected America's Best Employers through an independent survey applied to a vast sample of approximately 45,000 American employees working for companies with more than 1,000 employees. The evaluation was based on direct and indirect recommendations from employees who were asked to rate their willingness to recommend their employers to friends and family. Employee evaluations also included other employers in their respective industries that stood out either positively or negatively.



UK SEES HISTORIC RETENTION NUMBERS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

This spring, for the first time ever, more than 31,000 students were enrolled at the University of Kentucky at the start of the semester. That preliminary count represents an increase of more than 4 percent over last spring. Put another way, the university is serving, educating and preparing for lives of meaning and purpose well over 1,000 more students than it was last spring. Additionally, spring retention for first-year students — the percentage who returned this spring after fall classes — is at a record 95 percent to start the semester, up nearly 1.5 percentage points over spring 2022.

Retention also is up significantly among students of color, first-generation students, students who live on or off campus and students who come to UK from Kentucky or beyond.

These powerful numbers speak to the outstanding quality and persistence of UK's students, but they also are undergirded by the tireless commitment and efforts of thousands of faculty and staff.



UK'S SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM STRIVES TO HELP MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

As part of the University of Kentucky's plan to progress the institution toward diversity, equity and inclusion, accelerate inclusive excellence and contribute to sustainable economic development, the university created the "Supplier Diversity Purchasing Program" initiative in 2020. Led by UK's chief procurement officer, the initiative expands UK's supplier diversity procurement efforts and has received numerous awards since its inception.

While the initiative has only existed for two years, the impact of the program is already evident. In the past year, under the leadership of UK's first supplier diversity manager, UK has contracted with 893 more diverse companies than the previous year. The UK Supplier Diversity Program also established the Construction Diversity Accelerator program, which helps minority-owned, women-owned and other underrepresented construction-related businesses gain access to the tools, resources and opportunities needed to be competitive in the construction industry.