



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISSUE 129
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The University of Louisville is setting records this fall, particularly in the area of student enrollment. I was so pleased to recently announce that UofL boasts an all-time high of 24,092 students this fall. Further, new marks were set with our largest-ever incoming class and fall-to-fall retention rate. This is exciting news, especially at a time when student recruitment and retention remain challenges for higher education across the country.

Records also were broken during our annual Raise Some L fundraising campaign. Special thanks to the people, businesses and community partners who helped us reach a record \$4.8 million raised during this year's drive.

This fall, UofL reaffirmed its commitment to higher education being accessible to everyone. Our new Comeback Cards program offers debt forgiveness to returning students whose higher ed experience was interrupted. We also celebrated a longstanding partnership with Louisville Central High School, which exposes diverse and underrepresented students to the legal profession.

UofL continues to address the needs of our community each and every day. A statewide nursing shortage threatens the health of our fellow Kentuckians. Fortunately, a \$5 million award from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund is helping us meet that urgent need.

We have much to celebrate this fall at UofL, but we couldn't do what we do without your help. Thank you for your continued support of this great university. It is truly appreciated.

Kim Schatzel, PhD
President, University of Louisville



REDEFINING STUDENT SUCCESS



UofL Class of 2028 sets record enrollment

As higher education institutions across the country struggle with attracting and retaining students, latest enrollment figures show that the University of Louisville bucks that trend. UofL President Kim Schatzel recently announced several record-breaking enrollment figures, including an all-time total number of students—24,092.

That figure includes the largest fall 2024 incoming class ever with 3,125 students and fall-to-fall retention at an all-time high of 81.5%. Nearly 30% of the Class of 2028 comes from outside of Kentucky, representing 39 states and U.S. territories - another high mark. The Class of 2028 is particularly notable for its increased interest in STEM+H (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health) fields. Enrollment in these majors rose to 38.72% from 34.39% last year.



UofL launches new debt forgiveness program for returning students

The Comeback Cards program has launched at the University of Louisville, offering up to \$4,000 of debt forgiveness to returning students whose college journey was paused or interrupted. Finances and student debt play a key role in college, and this program provides students with the necessary assistance and motivation to complete their degrees at UofL. This initiative, funded by the Gheens Foundation, aims to reach the "some college, no degree" population allowing former UofL students to apply for a grant and finish their educational career.

Record-breaking Raise Some L

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, the University of Louisville Raise Some L 2024 Day of Giving took place with record-breaking success, raising an outstanding \$5.4 million from more than 2,000 donors. Donations came in from all 50 states showing love and support from the Cardinal community.

Significant donations included a \$1.5 million gift from The Bufford Family Foundation to support the College of Business, \$1.1 million from an anonymous alumnus to J.B. Speed School of Engineering and \$1 million for the Department of Biology. These contributions will generate a lasting and significant impact on hundreds of departments across the UofL campuses and the Louisville community.



UofL School of Nursing awarded nearly \$5 million for nursing education

The University of Louisville School of Nursing was awarded \$4.8 million to support undergraduate nursing education. The funding includes \$2.4 million granted by partners UofL Health and Owensboro Health, followed by a matching grant from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund. These funds are anticipated to play a significant role in facilitating efforts to address the shortage of registered nurses in Kentucky, by increasing access to baccalaureate nursing education across the state.

Documentary celebrates success of UofL, Central High School law partnership

The Central High School Law and Government Magnet program, in partnership with the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, gives diverse and underrepresented students a view of the legal profession.

A new documentary film celebrating the success of the UofL - Central partnership, "A Pathway Forward," premiered to an invitation-only audience Oct. 9 at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts. The film opened to the public at Louisville's International Festival of Film, Oct. 10-12.

Since it began in 2001, nearly 700 Central High School graduates have participated in the partnership, with many of them going on to attend law schools in 15 states.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POWERHOUSE

UofL economist helps local companies highlight their impact

Organizations need to understand their local economic impact and make informed decisions about launching new projects or expanding. An associate professor at the University of Louisville College of Business, Thomas Lambert, generates economic reports for local businesses to gain knowledge on their contributions to society. The reports created by Lambert aid businesses in securing grants, raising funds or even just improving public opinion.

Laurie Young, director of industry partnerships for the UofL Office of Research and Innovation, connected with Lambert and linked him with Humana, Anthem and other companies. Lambert generated reports for these companies including the value of volunteer hours, tuition reimbursement at local colleges and even money spent at local restaurants. Young and Lambert's collaboration is aiding in growing industry work across campus and highlighting all that UofL has to offer to businesses.

