

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2021

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



## LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CAPILOUTO

Recently, I communicated with members of the UK community updated health and safety guidelines as a result of a high vaccination rate among our students, faculty and staff.

Approximately 60% of our students, 70% of our staff and 80% of our faculty have received the life-saving vaccine – a point of pride for which I am deeply proud and grateful. It is a testament to the promise we have lived since the beginning of the pandemic: we are a community that cares.

Because of the efforts of our people, we are poised and positioned to return classrooms, offices and events to normal capacity this fall, allowing us to fully return to our sacred mission of doing more and being more for those we serve.

As a result, we are able to gather – if vaccinated – without masks and without physically distancing.

At the same time, we must remain vigilant. The virus is still present, and we must do everything necessary to protect the health and safety of our campus. That is why we will continue to engage in contact tracing and require tests, screenings and masks to non-vaccinated individuals, in alignment with guidance from health experts.

And we will continue to develop plans as needed based on evidence and the latest science, monitoring state and federal guidelines, to make sure our community is safe.

Eli Capilouto  
President

## NEW ACTING PROVOST

The newly appointed acting provost, Dr. Bob DiPaola, will begin his duties July 1. Dr. Charles "Chipper" Griffith III, a long-time senior official in the College, has been named acting dean. Dr. DiPaola came to UK and the College of Medicine in 2016 after previously serving as director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He is a highly regarded leader who has successfully engaged multidisciplinary groups for initiatives in research and education.

His collaborative approach – working alongside outstanding faculty, staff and learners – has led the college to unprecedented growth and progress in recent years.

Dr. DiPaola will bring a strong commitment to research, education and diversity and inclusion into his new role as acting provost.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Last summer, the university announced it would embark on a comprehensive diversity, equity and inclusion implementation plan, in which hundreds of members of the community have volunteered their time and talent to build a more equitable community on UK's campus.

While there is much work to be done, the university has made significant and tangible strides, including:

- Hiring a diversity supplier manager as part of a long-term effort to bolster and strengthen ties to minority-owned businesses and vendors.

- Working with best-in-class consulting firm Sasaki to create an overall campus plan that builds more equitable and accessible spaces and environments for all members of the UK community.

- Creating a designated art fund for capital projects exceeding \$1 million, in which the university will automatically create a fund to commission art that manifestly enhances diversity, equity and inclusion on the campus.

Notably, last year, the university announced Juneteenth would be a recognized UK holiday moving forward. We commemorated that holiday for the first time, June 18, 2021.



## VACCINES AND COVID-19

As of May 19, on-campus vaccine operations transitioned to clinical and pharmaceutical settings operated by UK HealthCare. The Kroger Field COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic launched in January and supported the administration of more than 240,000 doses of the vaccine to people from across Kentucky. It was central to UK's efforts in vaccinating first responders, K-12 employees, essential employees and the general public.

By the end of the spring 2021 semester, thousands of members of the UK community were vaccinated through UK – numbers that are fueling UK's plans to return to more robust in-person operations for the Fall 2021 semester.