

## CDC grant helps UofL establish Youth Violence Prevention Research Center

The University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) received a \$5.7 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a Youth Violence Prevention Research Center aimed at reducing violence among young people living in West Louisville.

Intentional injury is the leading cause of death among 10-to-24-year-olds in Kentucky, and violent crime rates for West Louisville are significantly higher than surrounding areas. In 2014, there were 338 juvenile arrests for violent crimes in West Louisville, compared to 876 for the rest of the city of Louisville.

"The CDC acknowledges youth violence as a preventable public health problem for individuals and communities," said UofL President James Ramsey. "We are working to be part of the solution, as the Youth Violence Prevention Research Center builds on our Signature Partnership Initiative that reaches West Louisvillians and seeks to enhance their quality of life and economic opportunities, creating a healthier Kentucky."

The Center is led by Monica Wendel, PH, MA, SPHIS associate professor and associate dean of public health practice, and Maury Nation, PhD, associate professor, Vanderbilt University Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Researchers and their partners will develop, implement and evaluate a community-level mass and social media campaign to change social norms - unwritten, shared mores, rules and customs that affect behavior.

The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control recognizes UofL as one of only seven national Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention.



David L. Dunn, executive vice president for health affairs at UofL, speaks at a press conference announcing a \$5.7 million grant from the CDC for youth violence prevention.

## A Letter from the President



President James R. Ramsey, left, with Maj. Gen. Peggy Combs and Col. Blaine Hedges, 93E, both from Fort Knox. The university has enjoyed a long partnership with Fort Knox offering education and services to military members stationed at the army post.

### Dear Friends,

As we reflect and give thanks this month, I want to take a moment to recognize the more than 900 military veterans who are students at the University of Louisville. Their presence here adds tremendously to the diverse makeup of our student body. And their service and sacrifice should be remembered throughout the year.

I'm extremely proud that UofL has been named a Military Friendly School for 2016, marking the seventh year in a row that the university has earned this designation. Receiving the honor is based on several factors, including academic credibility, support on campus, graduation and retention rates and career outcomes.

At UofL, we strive to help veterans and their families in the transition from military to student life. We provide support through free job counseling and career assistance, online learning opportunities and services such as discounted child care.

We have created a "military friendly" environment at the university because it's the right thing to do for our veterans and their families. We want them to know that they are welcome here, that UofL is a great place for them to continue their educations and that we will never forget all that they have done and continue to do to keep us safe and free.

James R. Ramsey, President, University of Louisville

## UofL again named Military Friendly School

G.I. Jobs magazine and Victory Media Inc. once again named UofL a Military Friendly School for 2016 – the seventh year in a row the campus received the distinction.

Specifically, UofL was honored for helping veterans and their families make a smooth transition from military to student life, providing support to determine federal and state education benefits, advocating for maximum transfer credits and assisting with withdrawals/readmissions due to deployment or active duty service. The university also earned kudos for its free job counseling, discounted child care, online courses, career assistance and online learning programs.

## Nursing school gains academic space

The School of Nursing has increased its capacity to educate more baccalaureate, advanced practice and research focused nurses through the renovation of two classrooms. A plaque in each room recognizes KentuckyOne Health for its \$1 million contribution to the project.

The rooms allow for seating up to 100 people, and are equipped with the latest technology that can be used for opportunities like distance education and web-based continuing education presentations. In real time, the school can easily connect to Owensboro, home of the BSN extension campus, and the KentuckyOne Health's twenty-plus hospital system. Building the nursing workforce to create a healthier Kentucky is the goal.



One of the renovated classrooms at the UofL School of Nursing.



Lowry Watkins, Jr., 68B (left) and College of Business Interim Dean Rohan Christie-David (right).

## College of Business receives \$1 million gift

Local businessman and 1968 graduate Lowry Watkins, Jr. recently donated \$1 million to the College of Business, establishing the Lowry Watkins, Jr. Endowed Chair in Finance. The position is designed to create opportunities for research and analysis of the financial sector.

Watkins' gift was a gesture of gratitude but also a way to help UofL in their climb up the national rankings, he said. For the first time in the college's history, all of their programs are ranked in the top 100 nationally.

"I'm glad to see the school growing and the programs improving" Watkins said. "This is important. I'll do all I can to help the University of Louisville. I'm not done."

"The gift helps us address two significant areas – research and increasing our number of endowed chairs – which are both important factors that are considered when ranking the country's best business schools," interim dean Rohan Christie-David said.

## UofL reaps big dividends from research investments

The University of Louisville's investment in new research resulted in an average return on investment of 1,777 percent. Since 2000, UofL spent a total of \$11 million on pilot research projects with faculty using that money to help secure another \$208 million in funding from outside sources like the National Institutes of Health or private investors.

"The world understands that our faculty are developing new technologies and doing groundbreaking research" said UofL President James Ramsey. "Our faculty just need a little money to leverage the big bucks that not only get their ideas off the ground but pay dividends for the university and our local economy as well."



Student and faculty researchers in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology are working on a variety of projects including plant-based pharmaceuticals.

The pilot research program funding also led to 77 awarded patents, licenses for 47 technologies and 32 startup company launches. The return on investment numbers compiled by the office of the Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation cover the past 15 years – a time when state funding for higher education and university research declined. But during that same period, UofL pumped money into research, awarding 445 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$225,000.



President James R. Ramsey, right, and Fern Creek High School Principal Nathan Meyer, left, stand outside the newly dedicated James R. Ramsey Room at Fern Creek High School. Ramsey is an alumnus of Fern Creek.

