Dear Friends,

Being active and connected to the greater community is something that is very much a hallmark of the University of Louisville.

In October, I’m proud to say the university, through its J.B. Speed School of Engineering, provided another fine example of its involvement outside the borders of its three campuses with the dedication of another maker space facility — this one at Central High School.

This is the third maker space that the Speed School has opened. It has similar facilities at two other urban institutions, West End School and Nativity Academy. At these sites, you can hear the hum of 3-D printers, laser cutters and drill presses as students build robots and drones, design and create new appliances and machines and participate in hack-a-thons dedicated to solving specific problems.

Our goal with these facilities, of course, is to increase awareness of the science, technology, engineering and math fields, particularly among underrepresented populations. But it’s about more than that. It’s also about helping students grow in their self-confidence and self-esteem.

That’s a big part of our mission at UofL. Yes, we educate our own students and prepare them to be productive members of the work force and of society. But we also work to lift up others throughout the city and provide access to educational opportunities that make life better for the entire community.

That’s the reason we have our Signature Partnership Initiative, which works to improve the education, health and social status of the people who live in our urban core. It’s the reason that community engagement is among our highest priorities. It’s one of the reasons that the University of Louisville is a special place.

Neville Pinto
Acting President, University of Louisville

---

**Speed School opens latest maker space**

The J.B. Speed School of Engineering opened its third maker space at Central High School.

The facility — called “The Colony” in honor of Central’s mascot, the Yellowjacket — is equipped with $30,000 of furniture donated by furniture manufacturer Artcobell, and $20,000 of machinery, including 3-D printers, laser cutters and drill presses, funded by a Verizon Innovation grant.

As part of its partnership with Central, the Speed School will provide up to five scholarships to graduates of the high school, allow selected high school seniors to take freshman-level college classes, sponsor robotics tournaments and hack-a-thons and help write STEM curriculum.

---

**Supreme Court Justice receives Brandeis Medal**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan visited UofL Oct. 24 to receive the Brandeis School of Law’s Brandeis Medal. Kagan’s stop included a Q-and-A session attended by law school faculty and students, as well as community members.

UofL Law professors Laura Rothstein and Justin Walker moderated the discussion. Walker met the justice when he was a student at Harvard Law School, where she served as dean.

About 350 people attended the luncheon and discussion, which was rescheduled from September due to Kagan’s schedule.
Five honored for community service

Winners of the Eighth Annual Community Engagement Awards were celebrated Oct. 26 with a reception and ceremony at Chao Auditorium in Ekstrom Library.

The UofL Outstanding Community Engagement awards recognize extraordinary community involvement by faculty, staff, students and community partners.

Each winner received a monetary award of $2,500. This year’s winners are:

Student Engagement: Joshua Wilcox
Faculty Engagement: Jeff C. Falcone, PhD
Staff Engagement: Kristofer Rau, PhD
Community Partner: West End School
Lifetime Achievement Award: Alice K. Houston, president/CEO, Houston-Johnson Inc.

For winner bios, visit http://uofl.me/ce-awards16

New academic building underway on Belknap Campus

The University of Louisville has begun construction of a state-of-the-art, 170,000-square-foot academic building that will enhance learning and provide academic and career services to its students.

Expected to open for the fall 2018 semester, the four-story, $80 million academic building primarily will serve undergraduate students on the Belknap Campus. It will house 17 classrooms, as well as science labs and group study areas, gathering spaces and food service options.

It also will feature a student success center, which will integrate academic support, advising and career services and a new Teaching Academy into one facility designed to improve the academic experience for undergraduate students and better prepare them for life after college.

Office of Public Health Practice involving youth in violence prevention campaign

A group of West Louisville youth have joined forces with UofL to help curb violence in their neighborhoods.

The Louisville Youth Voices against Violence (LYVV) Fellows work part-time for the University of Louisville’s Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP), an entity of the UofL School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The eight participants, ages 16-24, were hired through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant, which established UofL’s National Center of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention.

During their two-year fellowship, the youth are helping design and implement a campaign to change perceptions about violence, and ultimately destructive behaviors. Each of the youth fellows works 20 hours a week on various aspects of the violence prevention campaign that, when implemented in spring 2017, will use social media and other forms of media to connect cultural history and racial/ethnic identity.

Iowa senator visits campus

Iowa’s first federally elected female representative was the latest in a long line of elite guests to headline the McConnell Center’s Distinguished Lecture Series.

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst used her speech to urge UofL’s McConnell Scholars and the public to accept challenges and take risks to move forward in their careers and lives. Ernst is a 23-year military veteran, and she is the first female combat veteran elected to serve in the U.S. Senate.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced Ernst as a “rising star” in Washington who has quickly made her presence felt in the upper chamber since winning a special election just two years ago.

As a veteran and member of the Senate’s Armed Services committee, Ernst expressed deep concern about the U.S. plan to combat a variety of global terrorism networks, especially in Southeast Asia.

Senator Joni Ernst headlined the latest installment of the McConnell Center’s Distinguished Lecture Series.