



# Community Engagement at UofL

## *2021-22 REPORT*

UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE**

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Engagement involves the University of Louisville's collaboration with our community. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching categorizes Community Engagement into four areas:

- *Partnership*
- *Outreach*
- *Curricular engagement*
- *Engaged scholarship*

It also involves work with faculty, staff, and students to provide them with support, assistance, and technical expertise to enable them to collaborate with community partners. This report highlights a few examples of community engagement activities that occurred during the 2021-22 academic year.

Several partnerships such as the collaboration between the College of Education and Human Development and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative and JCPS, involving the Teacher Residency Program are highlighted. In addition, many of our faculty are engaged with community partners in conducting public impact research to find the answers to critical community issues in what is known as engaged scholarship.

In the area of curricular engagement, faculty are connecting their students to community issues through experiential or engage learning activities to reinforce course content, while providing service to community partners. Faculty, staff, and students are also engaged in outreach activities providing direct services, time, and resources to benefit the community through such activities as the Black Business Summit that brought Black businesses together to explore how the University can engage with these businesses.

The Office of Community Engagement plays an integral role in promoting, supporting, and advocating for community engagement. Much of the work of the office centers around supporting faculty and students to engage with the community. This is done through such activities as the annual Engaged Scholarship Symposium, a half-day gathering that brings faculty, staff, students, and community partners together to share their work. Professional development is offered to faculty through workshops, seminars, and the Community-Based Learning Institute, to provide faculty with the technical expertise necessary for engaged teaching and research. Community engagement allows the University to collaborate with community stakeholders to address critical community issues.

## DEFINING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement describes the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching). At the University of Louisville, community engagement is both outward facing, collaborating with community partners and inward facing, supporting faculty, staff, and students and coordinating programs internally to enhance this work.

## OUTWARD FACING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The outward facing aspect of community engagement projects may be broken down into the categories listed below. However, activities may fall into more than one categories based on the nature of the work.

**PARTNERSHIP:** Ongoing collaboration with community partners for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

**OUTREACH:** Providing direct services, time, or resources to benefit a community or its institutions. This includes instances of public intellectualism such as talks, lectures, presentations, performances, etc.

**CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT:** Student involvement with external partners via coursework (community-based learning courses)

**ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP:** Faculty scholarly work done in full partnership with the community. It consists of research, teaching, and the application of scholarship for the mutual benefit of the institution and community partner.

While this report does not cover everything community engagement that occurred during the 2021-22 academic year, it highlights a few selected activities and processes.



*A new clinical site in Shelbyville, Kentucky, makes it possible for the UofL School of Dentistry to further fulfill its mission of improving the oral health of Kentuckians. The dental practice, located in a business office park just south of U.S. 60 East/Midland Trail, provides close-to-home access for underserved populations in the area.*

## PARTNERSHIP

The University saw several partnership activities implemented during the 2022-23 academic year, a few of which are highlighted. These partnerships involved collaboration with various academic and administrative units within the university.

***College of Education & Human Development & OVEC Teacher Residency Program*** – This is a program aimed at addressing teacher shortages and is the result of a partnership between UofL’s College of Education and Human Development and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC), a consortium of 15 school districts in north central Kentucky. The OVEC Teacher Residency Program (OVEC-TRP) offers college graduates with a degree other than education the opportunity to earn a master’s degree and teaching certification in one year, in exchange for their commitment to teach in schools within participating districts. Reaching minority candidates to help diversify classrooms is a focus of the program.

***Signature Partnership Initiative Schools and Affiliate*** – The University continues to collaborate with the five Signature Partnership schools of Central High, the Academy @ Shawnee, Western Middle, Portland Elementary, Atkinson Elementary and the 2 affiliate schools – Cochran Elementary and Westport Middle School. The following are a few of the collaborative programs in the schools.

- UofL @ Central-Central Goes Red Day – This day brings together all academic units from the Health Sciences Campus (HSC) and Engineering, Law, Education & Human Development, and Business from Belknap Campus as well as Admissions, Financial Aid, and Upward Bound. The purpose of the day is to showcase programs offered by UofL and the admission requirements for these programs. The aim is to inform students in high school about these programs and to create a pipeline to UofL.



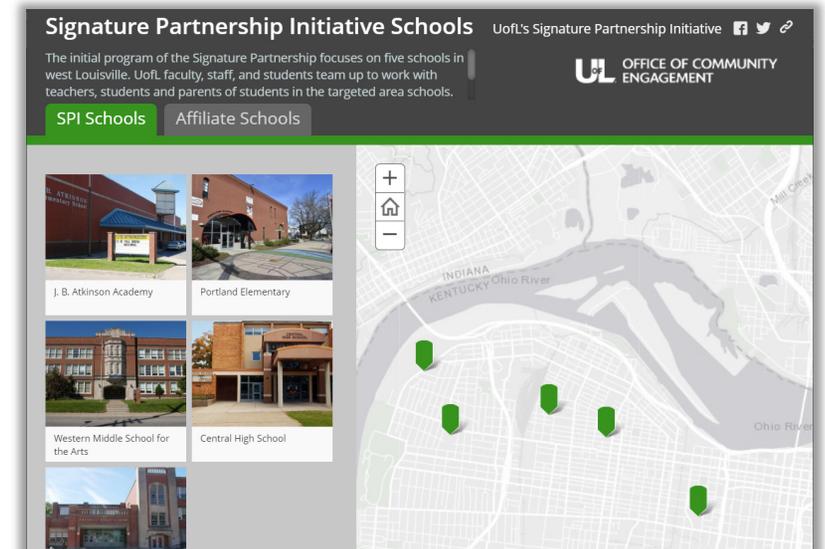
*The College of Education & Human Development and the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative partner on teacher residency program offering college graduates with a degree other than education the opportunity to earn a master's degree and teaching certification in one year, in exchange for their commitment to teach in schools within participating districts.*

- Health Magnet Program – The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) is working with HSC to create magnets in dentistry, medicine, nursing, and public health at Central High School. UofL faculty and students will work with Central teachers to embed various activities into the curriculum to enhance the experience of students. The goal is to create a pipeline to UofL and attract more minority to the health care fields.
- Math Specialist in Elementary Schools - Through a donation secured by the Office of Community Engagement, math teachers in elementary schools are being provided with a partial scholarship to obtain certification as math specialist from the College of Education and Human Development.

**Health Equity Innovation Hub** – The Health Equity Innovation Hub is an integrated, multi-disciplinary collaboration with Humana, The Humana Foundation and UofL. The Hub will focus on groundbreaking research, talent development, entrepreneurship and innovation, with a deliberate focus on health equity, social determinants of health and digital health and analytics.

**Central High School Law Magnet** – While serving as dean of the Brandeis School of Law in 2001, Laura Rothstein helped initiate a partnership between UofL and Central High School’s Law and Government Magnet. Now 20 years strong, the relationship of the two schools illuminates the value UofL places on community engagement. The Cardinal influence through Central’s law magnet represents a cornerstone of UofL’s Signature Partnership Initiative in west Louisville. Law School faculty and students are engaged in teaching several law curriculum including Street Law and the Marshall-Brennan Civil Liberties Curriculum to Central students as one of several other activities in the magnet.

**Yum! Brands, UofL and Howard University** – UofL, Yum! Brands and Howard University have launched the Yum! Franchise Accelerator, a one-of-a-kind MBA elective opportunity supporting underrepresented people of color and women interested in the franchise restaurant industry.



*The initial program of the Signature Partnership focuses on five schools in west Louisville. UofL faculty, staff, and students team up with other community partners to work with teachers, students and parents of students in the targeted area schools. The goal is to help students perform to the best of their abilities and to reduce or eliminate barriers to learning in an effort to improve educational attainment levels of community residents.*

## ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

**Green Heart Study** – With a multimillion-dollar investment in underserved Louisville neighborhoods, the Green Heart Project seeks to demonstrate the scientific link between nature and human health. By tackling two critical problems – air pollution and chronic disease – with a new, nature-based approach, Green Heart hopes to create a platform for major change. The project is a clinical trial where trees are the medicine. What we learn in Louisville could improve the lives of thousands of people and potentially millions or billions worldwide.

**Community-Based Research & Practice on Homelessness** - Susan Buchino, assistant professor in UofL's School of Public Health and Information Sciences, has consulted with Louisville Metro since 2019, providing research and programmatic evaluation on multiple homeless initiatives. Her research resulted in a report on solving street homelessness in Louisville, and her work continues to make an impact. Now, Buchino will coordinate the city's homeless initiatives as the Metro Government's recently-named Homeless Services Director.

**Aging Care in Louisville & Across the Region** - In 2022 The University of Louisville Trager Institute announced three grants totaling \$4.51 million to grow the workforce of behavioral health professionals and expand services in nursing homes. The grant addresses three areas; expanding the behavioral health workforce through an apprenticeship career pathway for high school graduates and older adults; enabling social work, nursing, and counseling psychology students to serve as interns in primary care/behavioral health training sites; and a partnership between the Trager Institute and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center on Aging and Health to create and deliver COVID-19-specific education and training to the nursing home workforce, residents, their families and caregivers.

**Archaeology and Local Cemeteries** – Thomas Jennings and students in the Department of Archaeology are working with local cemeteries to identify and document gravesites in older cemeteries. Students in the program are getting hands-on experience in researching and documenting their findings leading to proper identification of several burial sites and historical records for future use by others.



*The Green Heart Study is the first controlled experiment to test if increasing green space and infrastructure in a neighborhood improves air quality and human health with the goal of developing a “greenprint” for creating healthier neighborhoods..*

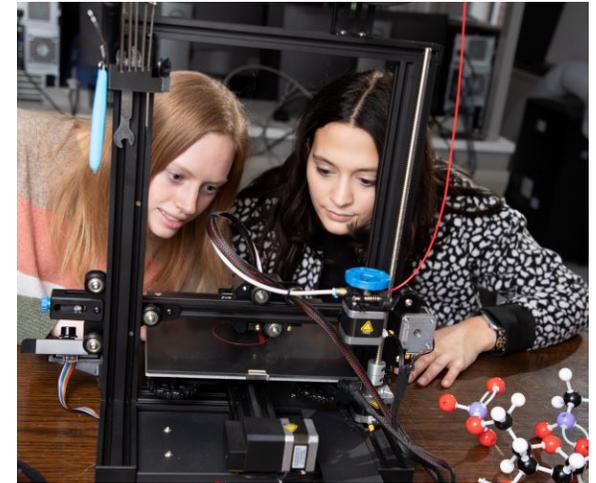
## CURRICULAR ENGAGEMENT

***Student Philanthropy Program*** - Students in four different courses taught in the College of Arts & Sciences learned the concept and importance of philanthropy as part of their courses. Students engaged in service and research with several community organizations and voted to award four of them, Americana Community Center, The Lord's Kitchen, Global Game Changers, and the Food Literacy Project with a \$1,000 mini grant to address a targeted issue identified by the students. The program is funded by a community philanthropist.

***School of Dentistry in Shelbyville*** - A new clinical site in Shelbyville, Kentucky, makes it possible for the UofL School of Dentistry to further fulfill its mission of improving the oral health of Kentuckians. The dental practice, provides close-to-home access for underserved populations in the area. The new site also gives dental students a community site near Louisville to learn alongside a full-time licensed dentist.

***Speed School & Kentucky School for the Blind*** - University of Louisville Speed School of Engineering is offering an elective course this semester focused on the design and prototype of educational models to enhance STEM education for blind or visually impaired (VI) students. Vance Jaeger, assistant professor, chemical engineering, instructs the class, teaching students about the development of models using CAD software to iteratively design and produce tactile educational prototypes with 3D printers. School for the Blind science instructor Adam Stockhausen, advises the UofL students on which concepts are most needed by visually impaired K-12 students and provides feedback on design iterations.

***Student Led Curricular Engagement*** - UofL student-led teams are endeavoring to help some Louisville neighborhoods access understandable, useful information that might affect their health, specifically as it relates to air quality. The Public Health Literacy Group, a coalition of academic scholars, community leaders and activists focused on making the science of public health more accessible. The work recently received a \$250,000 boost from the Humana Foundation as part of its ongoing Community Partners Program. The team includes three UofL scholars - Megan Poole from English, Shavonnie Carthens from Law and Abigail Koenig from Business - who, with their students, collaborated with District 3 Metro Councilwoman Keisha Dorsey, grassroots organization Rubbertown Emergency Action (REACT) and the nonprofit Kristy Love Foundation.



*UofL Speed School of Engineering is offering an elective course focused on the design and prototype of educational models to enhance STEM education for blind or visually impaired students.*

## OUTREACH

**UofL Health Urgent Care Plus Facility in West Louisville** - UofL Health – Urgent Care Plus is now open in west Louisville’s Parkland neighborhood. Area residents can conveniently access affordable preventative and urgent care seven days a week at the new site, located at 2746 Virginia Avenue. The west Louisville facility is staffed with both primary and urgent care providers. Services include treatment of non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries, routine exams, and work-related drug testing. Over the last six years, UofL Health has taken care of more residents in west Louisville than the other two hospital systems combined.

**TRiO Programs** – Upward Bound is a federally funded program housed in the Office of Community Engagement with the purpose of increasing the rate at which participants complete secondary education and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Participants in the program are high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree.

**Future Healers** - A group of social-justice-minded students in the UofL School of Medicine have created Future Healers, a mentorship program to provide children affected by violence with new goals and new role models. The UofL Student National Medical Association Chapter formulated the program, in collaboration with local nonprofit Christopher 2X Game Changers, to help children overcome the effects of violence by inspiring them to become healers themselves.

**Black Business Summit** - UofL’s inaugural Black Business Summit was held April 28 in the Main Ballroom of the Student Activities Center. Over 300 guests attended representing 120 businesses from all sectors and areas of the community. UofL and the Department of Procurement Services are committed to engaging with the local community to increase awareness of potential opportunities for supplier diversity and develop mutually beneficial relationships with all businesses.



*UofL’s inaugural Black Business Summit was held April 28 in the Main Ballroom of the Student Activities Center. Hosted by UofL Interim President Lori Stewart Gonzalez, along with Louisville ambassadors and business leaders Alice Houston, Ira Salls, Junior Bridgeman, Darrell Griffith and new UofL men’s basketball coach Kenny Payne. The focus was on how locally-owned companies can build mutually beneficial relationships with the university. Over 300 guests attended representing 120 businesses from all sectors and areas of the community. UofL and the Department of Procurement Services are committed to engaging with the local community to increase awareness of potential opportunities for supplier diversity and develop mutually beneficial relationships with all businesses.*

**Kentucky Campus Compact** – Although UofL is no longer a member of Kentucky Campus Compact, the reputation of the university as a leader in community engagement in Kentucky led to an invitation to serve on the strategic planning team for the compact. The Kentucky Campus Compact strategic plan aims to structure the organization into its next phase of community and civic engagement in Kentucky. Henry Cunningham, Director of Community Engagement, serves on the strategic planning team.

**UofL Nursing Student Helping to Increase Healthy Food Access in Perry County** - Paige Newquist, a UofL School of Nursing graduate student, is on a mission to increase access to healthy foods in Perry County, Kentucky. Newquist and Nikki Enlow, a graphic design student at Hazard Community College, have launched a public health information campaign as part of the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge. The Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge is a grant-funded project aimed at increasing access to foods that support healthy eating patterns. Perry County, located in Eastern Kentucky, has an adult obesity rate of 47% – 12 percentage points higher than the 35% average for Kentucky. UofL’s School of Nursing also leads the Food & Faith Coalition, a partnership with other organizations. In addition to increasing access, the coalition aims to increase food security screenings, grow retailers’ donations to nonprofit food programs and improve the interconnected work of 16 county organizations that provide food to community members.

**Cards Come Together** - In May 2022, the Office of Community Engagement partnered with District 6 Metro Councilman David James and Brightside for an Old Louisville Neighborhood Clean-up. Starting at 4th and Oak, the staff members who participated in the event cleaned up streets and alleyways from 1st Street to St. Catherine.

**Student Affairs – MLK Day of Service** - UofL students participated in a day of service on Jan. 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which included activities with the Ronald McDonald House, CASA of the River Region, The Dream Factory, Harbor House of Louisville, Dreams with Wings Inc., and The Book Works.



*In May 2022 the Office of Community Engagement partnered with District 6 Metro Councilman David James and Brightside for an Old Louisville Neighborhood Clean-up. Starting at 4th and Oak, clean-up of streets and alleyways from 1st Street to St. Catherine.*

# INTERNAL FACING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The internal aspect of community engagement include activities to support the university community to enhance and promote engagement with community stakeholders. These activities are usually coordinated by the Office of Community Engagement (OCE).

## DATA COLLECTION, ASSESSMENT & PLANNING

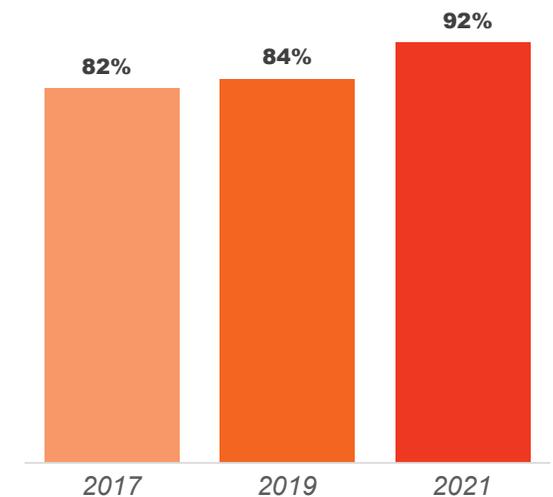
**Community Partner Survey** – Every two years, OCE surveys the university’s community partners. These are partners with whom faculty and staff, and others are collaborating for teaching, research, outreach, and other partnership initiatives. The purpose of the survey is to determine impact of collaborative activities on the community, to determine the perception community partners have of the university, and to identify areas to strengthen the collaboration. The impact assessment of the University’s engagement on the community is a requirement for the Community Engagement designation from the Carnegie Foundation.

**Community-engaged Scholarship Survey** – OCE also surveys faculty to learn about their engaged scholarship. The purpose of the survey, which is conducted every two years, is to determine the impact of community engagement on faculty teaching, scholarship, and on their personal and professional development. Data from the survey informs the work of the Office of Community Engagement including the type of professional development offered. Assessing the impact of community engagement on faculty is required by the Carnegie Foundation for the community engagement designation.

**Community-Based Learning course Review** – A review of community-based learning courses offered is conducted every two years to ensure the listing of CBL courses is up to date.

**Reimagining Community Engagement** – The Office of Community Engagement hosted a series of meetings with faculty, staff, and administrators to reimagine community engagement and what it should look like at UofL. The sessions provided a wealth of ideas on areas to better support faculty and students in community engagement activities.

**Partnership Profile System** – Each year faculty and staff are invited to report on their collaboration with community partners. The partnership profile was revised and updated to better reflect robust partnerships between the University and community stakeholders and to simplify the process.



**Our partnership with UofL is having impact in the community**  
("Strongly Agree" & "Agree")

- UofL Community Partner Survey

## FACULTY SUPPORT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Engaged Scholarship Symposium** – The symposium is a half-day convening of faculty, staff, students, and community partners who present about their community engaged teaching/learning, research, and outreach activities. At the 2022 symposium there were 15 presentations in the form of panels, round tables, and lightning talks. Fellows from The Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society were the keynote panelists.

**National Conferences** – Two faculty members were sponsored to participate in the Emerging Engagement Scholars training provided by the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, an organization that promotes engaged scholarship. In addition, support was provided to faculty who presented at national conferences. More than ten faculty presented at national community engagement conferences. OCE also presented a paper resulting from a study conducted about community partners.

**Faculty Support** – Support for faculty is a major focus of the Office of Community Engagement. Support included assistance in application for grants such as those offered by the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, individual consultation, assistance with presentation to national conferences. OCE staff also assisted faculty with course preparation, community partner connection, and community-engaged research.

**Community-Based Learning Institute** – This three half-day training assists faculty to integrate community-based learning into an existing course or prepare a new course that require students to engage with the community as part of their learning. There were twelve participants in this year's institute. This is the third year OCE has coordinated this institute.

**Workshops** – OCE coordinates a number of workshops during the academic year on engaged-teaching and engaged-research. The five workshops held this year were designed to better inform faculty about community engagement and provide them with tools for better teaching and research with community partners.

**Interest Groups** – OCE hosts two interest groups of faculty and staff, who come together monthly to discuss, debate, explore, share, and advocate for the work surrounding these groups. The two groups are the Community-based learning-Sustainability Faculty Group and the Anchor Learning Network Faculty/Staff Group. The latter group was able to successfully lobby the Procurement Office to modify its policy on tipping for catering services, which they believe was unfair to small businesses and not in line with an anchor institution like UofL.



The poster for the 7th Annual UofL Engaged Scholarship Symposium features a background image of a woman in a dark polo shirt and light shorts looking at a tablet. The text is overlaid on a dark red background. At the top left is the UofL logo and 'OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT'. The main title is '7th Annual UofL Engaged Scholarship Symposium'. Below this, the schedule is listed: 9:00 am - Welcome & Remarks from Douglas Craddock Jr., Interim Vice President of Community Engagement; 9:10 am - Community Engagement in the Era of COVID-19: Panel Presentation with the Faculty Fellows in The Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society; 10:20am - Concurrent Sessions 1: Panel Presentations, Lightning Talks, and a Roundtable Discussion; 11:20am - Concurrent Sessions 2: Panel Presentations and a Roundtable Discussion. At the bottom left is a QR code and a coffee cup icon. At the bottom right, it says '8:30 am - light breakfast in Ekstrom/Chao lower lobby' and 'Friday March 25, 9:00am - Noon in the EKSTROM LIBRARY (Chao)'. At the very bottom, it says 'free registration & full schedule - louisville.edu/communityengagement/events/symposium'.

**7th Annual UofL Engaged Scholarship Symposium**

UL OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

9:00 am - Welcome & Remarks from Douglas Craddock Jr., Interim Vice President of Community Engagement

9:10 am - Community Engagement in the Era of COVID-19: Panel Presentation with the Faculty Fellows in The Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society

10:20am - Concurrent Sessions 1: Panel Presentations, Lightning Talks, and a Roundtable Discussion

11:20am - Concurrent Sessions 2: Panel Presentations and a Roundtable Discussion

8:30 am - light breakfast in Ekstrom/Chao lower lobby

**Friday March 25, 9:00am - Noon in the EKSTROM LIBRARY (Chao)**

free registration & full schedule - louisville.edu/communityengagement/events/symposium

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

**Grants Related to Community Engagement** – University faculty and administrators received grant awards related to community engagement estimated at \$53,715,980 during the 2020-21 academic year. The grants addressed a variety of issues in the community including training and education, research, project assessment and direct services to communities, with a significant amount for response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the top units to receive funding include the School of Medicine, College of Education and Human Development, the Speed School of Engineering, the Kent School of Social Work and the School of Dentistry.

**Engaged Scholarship Consortium Mini Grant** – As a member of the Engaged Scholarship Consortium, UofL faculty may apply for community engagement grants offered. For the past three years at least one faculty from UofL has received an award. The most recent recipient are Dr. Emma Sterrett-Hong & Dr. Lesley Harris from the Kent School of Social Work and Dr. Jelani Kerr, School of Public Health and Information Sciences for an arts-based socially engaged research exploring the impact of race-based trauma and gun violence in Louisville.

**National Awards** – Through an internal selection process, the School of Nursing Kentucky Racing Health Services Clinic was submitted as the University’s nomination for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Fellowship Awards. Support and mentoring was provided to the nominee prior to submission. UofL nominated three programs during the last few years, all receiving awards, with the Anne Braden Institute – Kentucky LGBTQ Heritage Project winning the regional award in 2019.

**Athletics** - Student-athletes Kaylee Wheeler, Kathryn Schneider, Ashley Osborne, Bradley Sample, Kaden Kozlowski, and Dawson Orlowski have been named as winners of the Atlantic Coast Conference’s Top Six for Community Service. The criteria for this award are determined by each individual school recognizing student-athletes that have demonstrated outstanding community service and community relations.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Twitter Account** – OCE is currently exploring social media to amplify the work of the office as well as community engagement as a whole occurring throughout the university. This year we hit the 1,000 mark in followers on our twitter account.

**Youtube, Facebook & LinkedIn** – Channels for Youtube, facebook and LinkedIn were created to further promote community engagement activities within the office and throughout the University.

