



**2024**  
**Annual  
Report**

UNIVERSITY OF  
**LOUISVILLE**

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UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

At the University of Louisville, our mission is unwavering. We are a university where students of all backgrounds, beliefs and passions are equipped with the knowledge, support and opportunity to engage in transformative learning that will change their future. We believe in the power of ideas and turning them into a reality that creates a better world. And we are an anchor institution that empowers the citizens in our city and commonwealth to realize success.

As UofL is reaching new heights, others are taking note. 2024 was a record-breaking year for Cardinals, highlighted by national rankings.

### Changing the trajectory

UofL is one of the Top 100 public universities in the nation, according to the latest rankings from U.S. News and World Report. Additionally, UofL jumped 16 spots – the largest rise of any school in the country – on the list of America’s Best Colleges. Several undergraduate programs also ranked in the top tiers nationally.

### A winning streak

UofL’s online programs continue a decade long run of being named “Best Online Programs” by U.S. News and World Report. In 2024, two online programs rated in the Top 20 nationally, with our online bachelor’s in business and our online bachelor’s in psychology coming in at #17 and #11, respectively.

### Call it a three-peat

UofL earned the Military Friendly® Gold designation for the third year in a row. UofL is one of only 27 R1 research universities in the nation and one of only three ACC schools to earn the designation for leading practices, outcomes and programs for military students.



## Cardinals unite

Fall 2024 total enrollment clocked in at 24,073 Cardinals – the highest total on record. The university’s student body represents a diverse range of backgrounds, with students hailing from 117 counties in Kentucky, 54 U.S. states and territories and 90 countries worldwide.



At UofL, we welcome all students and meet them where they are to unleash their potential.

Cardinals flocked to campus in strong numbers in 2024, with increases in the first-year class, retention, housing and transfer students as well as a record-setting total enrollment.

## Records broken

### ENTERING CLASS

**3,125**

The Fall 2024 entering class was 3,125 students, making it the largest incoming class ever.\*

### RETENTION

**81.5%**

The university’s overall retention rate of 81% is the highest in recorded history.

### HOUSING

**3,900+**

More than 3,900 students are living on campus, a 97% occupancy rate.

*\*Preliminary data*



## Making a change

UofL is the top transfer destination for Kentucky students. In two years, UofL’s transfer student total went from 868 to 1,207, a significant 39.1% growth.





**“I’M BREAKING THE CHAINS AS A FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT. I WANT TO SET AN EXAMPLE FOR MY FIVE-YEAR-OLD BROTHER SO I CAN SHOW HIM HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE AND BE SUCCESSFUL. HE SAYS HE WANTS TO BUY HIS OWN APARTMENT AND GO TO UOFL NOW THAT HE’S SEEN ME DO THIS. I CAN GUIDE HIM.”**

**– SANTIAGO MURILLO**  
*JUNIOR, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR*

**First in first-gen**

UofL is one of only 14 higher education institutions selected to the inaugural class of FirstGen Forward Network Champions.

Network Champions are national leaders in advancing first generation efforts and contributing to a knowledge base of evidence based practices, leadership engagement and scaling student supports.

As a research and innovation powerhouse UofL’s curious spirit is on full display among faculty, staff and students, where big ideas are making big impact here and beyond.

At UofL, we turn ideas into reality to improve lives.

**By the numbers\***

**\$176**  
**MILLION**

Competitive funding including grants, contracts and clinical trial agreements – a 14% increase over the previous year

**\$230**  
**MILLION**

Research expenditures, UofL’s highest on record

**499**

Clinical trials, a 36% increase over the previous year

**38**

Patents awarded

**The next generation**

UofL secured \$24 million to train the next generation of clinical researchers and drive work that can save and improve lives.



The funding, which includes \$11.7 million from the National Institutes of Health matched dollar-for-dollar by UofL, marks the single largest investment in clinical research infrastructure in the university’s history.

**Giving trees**

Plant power is alive and thriving at UofL, where researchers proved that living in a neighborhood full of trees and shrubs can make you healthier.

The groundbreaking Green Heart Project discovered that people living in Louisville neighborhoods where the number of trees and shrubs was more than doubled showed lower levels of a blood marker of inflammation than those living outside the planted areas. General inflammation is an important risk indicator for heart disease and other chronic diseases.



\*Latest numbers are FY23





### Experts in residence

More than 100 UofL researchers are among the top 2% most cited in the world, according to a new list compiled by Stanford University and Elsevier. The researchers represent eight UofL schools and colleges.

One of those most-cited researchers is Cheri Levinson, associate professor of psychological and brain sciences, who received \$11.5 million for research to prevent and treat eating disorders. Among the grants she received is the New Innovator Award, part of NIH's High-Risk, High-Reward Research program. Levinson is the first from UofL and the first studying eating disorders to receive this award.

UofL's dynamic connection with community starts in Louisville and radiates throughout the commonwealth. Our partnerships open wide the doors of opportunity to students and citizens alike, fueling success for our university and our neighbors in areas including health care, community services and economic impact.

### A watershed session

The state of Kentucky invested more than \$450 million in UofL during the 24-25 fiscal year, including a \$280 million investment to build the new Health Sciences Simulation Center and Collaboration Hub. The building will benefit all four HSC schools and be the new home of the School of Public Health and Information Sciences. It was the largest amount of funding for a single project in UofL's history, the largest project being funded in Louisville and represented the most general fund support for any single project among Kentucky's colleges and universities in the 2024 session.

### Expanding the reach of cancer care

UofL Health is building a new \$25 million regional cancer center and Center for Rural Cancer Education and Research, with a specific emphasis on increasing access to comprehensive cancer care in south, central and western Kentucky. Located at the UofL Health - South Hospital in Bullitt County, the project was made possible with funding support from the Kentucky General Assembly.

### Other investments:

**\$10.6 MILLION** over two years to support the Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership

**\$1.5 MILLION** for an immigration law clinic at the Brandeis School of Law

**\$900,000** for the Rural Dental Outreach Program and **\$100,000** per year for dental care for patients with dental issues related to drug use

**\$6.4 MILLION+** to support cancer research and screening, pediatric cancer research and spinal cord and head injury research

**"DESPIITE THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF THESE CONDITIONS, THERE ARE FEW AVAILABLE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OPTIONS. THIS WORK NOT ONLY WILL CREATE OPTIONS, BUT OPENS THIS WHOLE POSSIBILITY FOR TREATMENTS THAT ARE PERSONALIZED BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL."**

**- CHERI LEVINSON**  
DIRECTOR OF THE EATING ANXIETY TREATMENT (EAT) LAB.





“STEAM IS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE AND VESSEL THAT CAN BE UTILIZED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS. I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER THINGS THEY ENJOY AND INSPIRE THEM TO USE THEIR KNOWLEDGE TO TRANSFORM THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES FOR THE BETTER.”

- JERALD SMITH '17  
FOUNDER OF STEAM EDUCATION CO.



### Bringing science to life

Through programs to teach the teachers and alums who are experimenting with outreach, UofL is helping K 12 schools and students discover what makes science special.

Eight Jefferson County Public School teachers spent the summer at UofL partnering with UofL faculty for a six week program on urban based ecological research. The Research Experience for Teachers Sites in Biological

Science grant helps local teachers incorporate environmental issues into K 12 curriculum.

Meanwhile, alums like Jerald Smith '17 also are igniting passions for science for kids in local communities. Smith is the founder of STEAM Education Co., an interactive traveling education program that gives K 12 students firsthand learning experiences and a chance to explore STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math).

It was a banner year for philanthropy with our annual fundraising drive, Raise Some L, bringing in a record-breaking more than \$5.4 million. In all, 2,028 donors supported the effort, and we had participation from all 50 states.

### Raising the bar

raiseRED dance marathon, UofL's largest student run philanthropy, boogied its way into the record books with the 2024 event raising their cumulative total over the event's history to more than \$5 million. The funding goes to the Department of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology and Norton Children's Cancer Institute to fight childhood cancer.

### With gratitude

Several donors funded life changing scholarships and endowments this year, supporting Cardinals across campus including at the School of Music and the Brandeis School of Law.

- **Mary Byron Project** Support of a full time faculty member in the Brandeis School of Law who will integrate Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) legal education throughout law school curriculum.



- **Elizabeth Huang Piano Festival and Competition** - Mark and Cynthia Huang Pollock created a named endowment through a \$50K gift to establish the Elizabeth Huang Piano Festival and Competition, in honor of their late mother, who is a School of Music graduate and pianist.

- **Monica Pearson Scholarship** - A scholarship for a student from a single parent home. Pearson '75 is an esteemed journalist and news anchor. In 1975, she became the first female and African American to anchor the evening news at WSB TV in Atlanta.





Often, the only number that matters in athletics is the final score. But Cardinal student-athletes were making impressive showings in all sorts of numbers in 2023-24, from Olympic appearances to service hours.

# 17.45 METERS

Length of junior Jayden Ulrich's shot put throw to win the ACC title



# 10

Straight NCA National Championships won by the all-girl cheer squad



New men's head basketball coach, Pat Kelsey

# 11

Cardinals competing at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris



# 23

Number of home runs by Taylor Roby to set the softball single season home run record



# 4

Number of teams that appeared in the Top 10 during the season (football, volleyball, field hockey and swimming and diving)

# 4,000

Hours of community service completed through the Cards Care program

# 447

Student-athletes named to ACC Honor Roll



## University Leadership

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**JEFF BUMPOUS**

School of Medicine

**KATHRYN CARDARELLI**

School of Public Health and Information Sciences

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**TERESA REED**

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**DAYNA TOURON**

College of Arts and Sciences

*\*Interim*





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