



# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISSUE 103 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Friends,

The spring semester is underway and I believe that all of our students, faculty and staff have renewed energy as we enter the New Year and continue our efforts to move this university forward. We wrapped up 2018 with some positive momentum.

Highlights included the decision by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to reaffirm our accreditation and, of course, our December commencement ceremony to celebrate (or honor) our more than 1,300 new alumni.

Over the break, we continued our work to ensure the vitality and success of our health care enterprises through several strategic moves. We hired Tom Miller, a health care professional with more than 30 years of experience in the industry, to lead our UofL Health initiative. We also extended our academic affiliation agreement with KentuckyOne Health as we continue to explore options for the future of our medical residents and programs currently housed at Jewish Hospital. I can assure you that maintaining the quality care and programming that are synonymous with the university's health care operations and continuing to do our part to meet the health care needs of our community are my guideposts as we seek a smart, sustainable solution.

This semester, the university is beginning in earnest a strategic planning process that will unfold over the next several months. In January, university leadership held a retreat to identify focus areas and establish a timeline for developing a strategic plan. We held a wonderful kickoff event Jan. 24 to roll out the process to the entire campus community.

Our goal is to present our strategic plan to the Board of Trustees in July and to launch it Aug. 1. My thanks to Gail DePuy, associate dean of our J.B. Speed School of Engineering, and Jeff Bumpous, chairman of the department of otolaryngology in the School of Medicine, for agreeing to co-chair both the executive and steering committees as we embark on this process.

I would encourage all university constituents to take an active role in this important exercise. UofL is moving in a positive direction. Because our momentum is coming from our amazing people, we will need your participation and input for this planning process to be successful. I look forward to your continued support as we each do our part to make the University of Louisville an even greater place to learn, to work and to invest. As one team, we can and will accomplish great things together. Go Cards!

**Neeli Bendapudi**  
President, University of Louisville



The 2018-19 nursing cohort is one of the most diverse in school history.

## NURSING COHORT ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE EVER

One hundred nursing students marked their formal entry into the health care profession in January at the University of Louisville School of Nursing's Transition Ceremony.

The ceremony signifies the advancement of future nurses from the classroom to clinical rotations during the final four semesters of their undergraduate program.

The cohort of students is one of the most diverse the school has seen, with 31 percent ethnic minority and 19 percent male, Nursing Dean Sonya Hardin said. Men account for only 9 percent of the national nursing workforce.

Guillermo Aguirre said he decided to become a nurse while he was on a military

deployment in Iraq in 2011. One of his friends was injured by an explosion and a young medic kept him alive until they reached the medevac.

"A nurse can go anywhere in health care, but most importantly, they have the most interaction with patients," Aguirre said. "I'm going to make a difference and help people."

UofL President Neeli Bendapudi spoke during the ceremony and told the students: "The most important person for a patient or for their families is the nurse. You are entering a noble profession."

## UofL recognized as top research institution for the fourth time

UofL has once again been ranked among the top U.S. institutions for research activity. For the fourth time, the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education designated UofL a "Research 1" doctoral university with "very high research activity." Considered a highly prestigious ranking, UofL is one of only 120 U.S. institutions to achieve the highest ranking in this latest survey, which is based on the 2016-17 academic year.

"This designation validates the hard work of our faculty, staff and students to make discoveries that change, improve and even save lives" said UofL's Interim Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation Robert Keynton.

UofL awarded 159 research/scholarship doctoral degrees and had more than \$177 million in research expenditures in 2016-17



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## UOFL'S ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

During the fall semester, Geoff Bailey, executive director of UofL's REACH program, along with his colleagues Julie Hohmann, Mark Woolwine and Rex Mann, presented seven concurrent sessions at the annual National College Learning Center Association Conference in New York.

Now, the team is ready to take on a much bigger role: UofL will host the next NCLCA conference in 2019.

The hosting opportunity came about when Bailey was elected vice president of the NCLCA, an organization that includes professionals across the higher education spectrum – from those working in tutoring centers to faculty.

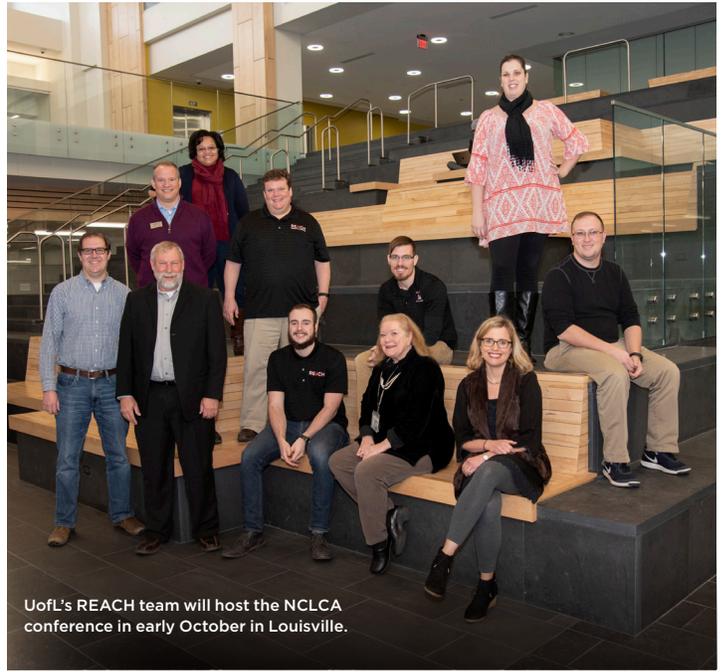
REACH's goals are to improve students' academic performance, help students transition to college life and support student retention. For NCLCA, a main objective (and one of the reasons Bailey became involved) is to ensure professionals in student success fields have access to the best information to achieve those goals.

"We are looking to find key metrics to establish benchmarks, assessing retention and recruitment efforts, learning best practices on how to grow revenue. It is extensive," Bailey said. "But it's important for us to be involved to remain cutting edge and to make a dynamic impact on a quickly-changing population."

Bailey believes UofL is ahead of many other institutions in terms of emphasis and priority the school places on academic success services.

"UofL recognizes the types of study skills we teach and the pedagogies we teach. We receive learning center support through tutoring that makes a huge difference to our students regardless of their academic levels," he said. "We're not just talking about students who are failing; we also have honors students use us regularly. We are well positioned because what we have here sets the bar for ourselves and other institutions."

UofL's REACH team, for example, has established a training curriculum that allows faculty and staff to have a better understanding of where a college student is intellectually. The team also has all three College Reading and Learning Association certifications that are available.



## Athletics attaining success beyond the field

While many people associate the success of UofL's athletics program with championships and player of the year honors, there's much more to the student-athlete story.

For years, the Cardinals have produced consistent success away from the playing surface.

In mid-November, the NCAA released its national graduation rates and UofL student-athletes combined generated a school-record 88 percent graduation rate that was reflected in the report.

That graduation rate, most recently reported for

freshmen who entered in the 2011-12 academic year, has risen 22 percent in a 14-year span. The rate takes into account any transfers into the university and those who leave in good academic standing. Six teams achieved perfect marks in the most recent report.

"Our student-athletes have continued to improve upon their academic standing at record accomplishments," said UofL Vice President and Director of Athletics Vince Tyra. "It starts with our coaches recruiting the top student-athletes, continues with the commitment from the student-athletes to

achieve in their academic pursuits, and also having a dedicated support staff in place to aid their efforts."

The Cardinals' capped the spring of 2018 with a collective 3.2 grade-point average, marking 15 consecutive semesters with at least a 3.0 GPA.

The university's Cardinal Degree Completion program, established to assist returning student-athletes who left before finishing a degree, helps with the cost of tuition and books and provides mentors for their academic journey.



## New CEO takes helm of UofL Health

Tom Miller, a health care professional with more than 30 years' experience in both not-for-profit and investor-owned hospitals, is the new CEO for UofL's clinical enterprise, UofL Health.

Miller was previously president and CEO of Tennessee-based Quorum Health, a \$2.2 billion health care company that owns 38 hospitals in 16 states. His experience includes operations, strategic development, investor relations, capital investments and quality services. He started at UofL on Jan. 7.