



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

Summertime is off to a very positive start at the University of Louisville. While many of us will work right through the next few months, I have encouraged all of our students, faculty and staff to carve out some time to relax, refresh and recharge during the summer to ensure that they are well prepared when things ramp back up again this fall.

The spring semester ended on a strong note with one of the university's largest graduating classes in decades. Nearly 3,200 students received their degrees. It was incredibly uplifting to preside at my first spring commencement and to personally congratulate students and their families on that special day. Commencement always is a reminder of why we do what we do.

Every day, our students make us so proud through their efforts and achievements. I'm happy to report that this has been another banner year for prestigious scholars at the university, highlighted by our recent announcement of 12 Fulbright scholars this year. Our track record as a Fulbright producer is outstanding and on par with many Ivy League institutions. It is noteworthy that it is not only the students, but also their faculty and staff mentors who have made our institution a Fulbright powerhouse.

The past couple of months have been marked

by heightened activity on our Health Sciences Campus. We recently concluded a deal to sell our majority stake in Passport Health Plan to Evolent Health. This transaction is significant because it allows Passport to continue providing services to more than 300,000 Medicaid enrollees without any disruption. It also enables UofL to remain a minority partner in Passport.

The university, in conjunction with its UofL Health affiliate, also continues to work on contingency plans related to KentuckyOne Health's local assets. While we are disappointed that we could not come to an agreement with Catholic Health Initiatives for an acquisition, we simply could not accept any agreement that may bring undue financial risk to our institution. Our top priority is our patients, students, medical residents and community, and we will continue to work out details and agreements that support and protect these priorities.

Additionally, the university's strategic planning process is rolling along at an impressive pace. Our teams of faculty, staff and students have submitted plans aimed at turning our vision into concrete strategies around the themes of learn, work and invest. We are readying our plan for review by the Board of Trustees this summer and plan to implement it later this year. I am so thankful for

the many hours of work from so many people that have gone into this project and believe the resulting product will be an excellent guidepost for the entire university community.

Lastly, I was so excited this spring when we introduced a new partnership with IBM that we believe will be a game changer. The formation of the IBM Skills Academy within the university's Center for Digital Transformation will help close the technology gap for the next-generation workforce. The academy will provide curriculum and educational tools in several fast-growing tech fields, including cloud computing and artificial intelligence. What could be more important for UofL than helping fill the workforce needs of the future?

As you can see, much is happening at the University of Louisville, but your ongoing support is necessary for our continued success. Thanks for all you do for the university. It is truly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you soon. Go Cards!



**Neeli Bendapudi**  
President, University of Louisville



### UofL graduates nearly 3,200 students

A massive spring graduating class meant extra big crowds during commencement at the KFC Yum! Center on May 11.

University officials estimate over 10,000 people attended each ceremony (there are two). It was the first time extra seating was opened in the upper level of the Center and those seats were nearly filled at both ceremonies.

Nearly 3,200 students graduated during the spring semester and more than 2,100 of those graduates took part in commencement.

## CLOSING THE TECH GAP: PARTNERSHIP AIMS TO PREPARE NEXT-GENERATION WORKFORCE

UofL and IBM announced in April a partnership that establishes the IBM Skills Academy.

The academy focuses on digital learning and technology and will be housed in the newly created Center for Digital Transformation in the Miller Information Technology Center, Belknap Campus. It will open by the start of the fall semester.

Specifically, the academy will provide curriculum and educational tools concentrated on eight fast-growing technology areas: artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, cybersecurity, cloud computing, internet of things, quantum computing, data science and design thinking.

Through IBM's existing Academic Initiative, IBM will make available software and cloud technology with an estimated value up to \$5 million a year.

"But the value of this far exceeds that figure. When you have two great institutions working together, who can say where the opportunity lies?" said President Neeli Bendapudi, who made the partnership happen along with Naguib Attia, IBM's vice president of Global University Programs, after the two met recently at an event.

This skills academy is the first of its kind that IBM has developed with a higher education institution. The company is in discussions with four universities to open similar academies in the United States. Attia said the initiative is starting here because of Bendapudi's "passionate leadership."

Students will benefit from the academy through course credit and IBM certification, while faculty will be trained on skills curriculum to then be able to teach colleagues and students.

Attia said over 120 million jobs will be affected within the next three years by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.



University officials, IBM executives and state and local leaders took part in a news conference to announce the establishment of an IBM Skills Academy.

## Researchers developing cancer vaccine

Vaccinations protect us from all kinds of terrible diseases — polio, small pox, malaria. But what if a vaccine could protect you from cancer?

Work is now underway by UofL researchers who are developing a new vaccine for lung cancer. The vaccine has shown tremendous promise in the prevention of certain tumor growths in mice.

Prevention is key because, while conventional treatments and therapies may kill most of the cancer, a small percentage of cells are resistant. Those are cancer stem cells, which have the ability to reproduce and sustain the cancer.

"Those cells sit there, and they

have the capability of regrowing the entire tumor by themselves," said co-inventor and assistant professor of medicine, Dr. Kavitha Yaddanapudi.

A vaccine sidesteps those cells by helping the body build immunity to cancer before it develops. So far, the UofL vaccine has been tested against lung cancer and melanoma in mice, and 80 to 100% of the vaccinated mice used in each animal trial were cancer free when compared to the non-vaccinated control group.

The research team hopes to develop the vaccine to be effective against all cancer types and is now working toward human trials.

## UofL TEAMS UP WITH HUMANA FOUNDATION, INTERAPT TO LAUNCH TECH TRAINING PROGRAM

The Humana Foundation, Interapt and the University of Louisville are partnering to bring a paid, immersive training program that teaches high-demand IT skills to the underemployed and unemployed in the Louisville community.

The program, called "Louisville Skills," will provide up to 25 individuals the opportunity to build the technical, business and life skills necessary to work in a fast-paced, high-tech environment, preparing them to launch promising careers in the tech industry.

Training will be done by Interapt, a Louisville-based technology firm, that also trains software developers. The Humana Foundation has earmarked \$325,000 for the project, which will be targeted to residents in Louisville Metro, particularly in West Louisville.

The training will be at UofL's Hite Art Institute in West Louisville and will include foundational software programming concepts and software development skills. To ease the burden for students, they will receive a stipend of \$100 per week during the program.

## A FULL FULBRIGHT HOUSE

A dozen UofL alumni have earned 2019 Fulbright scholarships, a prestigious international award coveted by many high-achieving scholars.

The university has had outstanding results as a Fulbright producer. Since 2003, there have been 133 Fulbright student scholars, more than all other Kentucky public institutions combined.

Students and recent alumni also earned many other competitive awards this year. There were five Critical Language Scholars, two Goldwater Scholars and one Rotary International award winner. Five students received Boren Award offers, but three had to decline this scholarship because they won two or more awards.

One such scholar, Ben Anderson of Louisville, may be the most-awarded student in university history. The Brown Fellow, Ali Scholar and Porter Scholar winner won, this year, a Fulbright, Boren and Critical Language scholarship. The recent graduate and political science major decided to accept the Fulbright. He will spend the summer in Taiwan as an English teacher.



The 2019 student Fulbright awardees are (top row): Chelsea Flint, Alexander Kaliannan, Elizabeth Schaaf, Seth Drake, Miranda Hale, Noela Botaka. Second row: Samir Kusmic, Eric Hahnert, Natasha Mundkur, Ben Anderson, Ethan Libby Pelletier, Macey Mayes.