



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

This fall semester has been like no other. Campus looks and feels different as we work to keep the university as safe and healthy as possible during the pandemic. Our decision to adopt a hybrid learning model for the fall semester significantly decreased the number of Cardinals on campus. Thanks to the hard work of our Academic Scenario Planning Committee and the innovative efforts of our admissions and enrollment teams over the summer, however, we had over 300 more students than we anticipated enroll with us this academic year. Those who are still studying, working and living on campus are doing a great job wearing their masks, practicing physical distancing and getting tested for COVID-19.

Although I miss the vibrancy we typically have on campus this time of year, I have been so impressed with the ways I've seen our Cardinal Family adapt and lean into our Community of Care principle. Hundreds of virtual events and online experiences have been conducted by students, faculty and staff to help Cardinals stay connected. The School of Public Health and Information Sciences and the Health Promotion team are using their expertise to help normalize healthy behaviors and mindsets through social media campaigns and reminders on digital monitors across campus. The School of Music is sharing its talents by performing weekly mini concerts in the Belknap Academic Building courtyard to lift campus spirits. These are just a few of the many ways Cardinals have stepped up.

For many of us, this is the hardest year we've ever had to endure. Still, our university continues to lead in the face of the pandemic and the national anti-racism movement. Our Co-Immunity Project is providing critical information for understanding COVID-19 infection rates in Jefferson County. We have adjusted our goal to become a premier *anti-racist* metropolitan research university and we have numerous committees and groups engaged in making recommendations on the concrete ways we can reach this.

I am proud that our university serves a more racially and economically diverse student population than most research universities in the country, and we continue strengthening our connection with the community, commonwealth and beyond during such difficult times. In this report, you'll see further evidence of how we're making an impact and being recognized for our achievements. UofL is committed to being a great place to learn, work and invest. Thank you for helping us make this such a great place and thank you for supporting our work to build a brighter, safer and more equitable future for all.

Go Cards!

Neeli Bendapudi
President, University of Louisville

PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS HELP KEEP CAMPUS SAFE AS CONTACT TRACING SPECIALISTS

They've spent hours training, including the completion of Johns Hopkins University's online contact tracing course. Now, nearly a dozen undergraduate and graduate students from the School of Public Health and Information Sciences are playing an integral role in keeping the University of Louisville safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Maymie Owens will graduate in December with a bachelor of science in public health. She's working 28 to 30 hours each week providing information to close contacts of COVID-19 positive status students, faculty and staff. "It gives me the chance to be part of something that can improve the health

of the community, as well as gain background knowledge for my future career," Owens said. She was one of 40 UofL public health, biomedical science and medical students, along with medical residents who volunteered the past few months with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness' (LMPHW) contact tracing team.

The student workers have greatly expanded the bandwidth of Campus Health Services, says Cheri Hildreth, director of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. Campus Health makes initial calls to members of the UofL community who test positive for COVID-19, and then Hildreth's team makes phone calls to positive cases and close contacts, providing education and information on up-to-date isolation safety measures and guidelines.



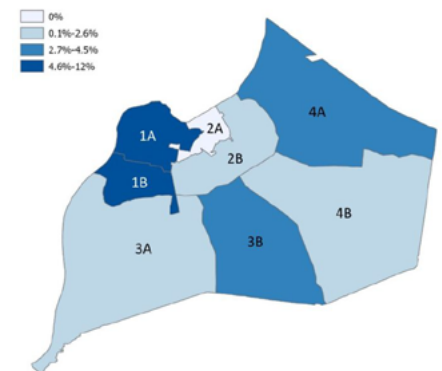
CO-IMMUNITY PROJECT CONTINUES PROVIDING CRITICAL INFORMATION ON COVID-19 INFECTIONS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The Co-Immunity Project at the University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute is a unique series of studies to estimate the true prevalence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, in Jefferson County by testing a representative sample of individuals from different areas in the city in proportion to the age and race of the population of the area every eight weeks. The approach adopted by study investigators provides a more reliable estimate of the spread of coronavirus infection in different parts of the city than simply testing whomever comes forward to be tested.

In the most recent effort to obtain a uniform sample of city residents, investigators at the UofL Brown Envirome Institute mailed 32,000 letters to households across the city. They followed up the invitation letters with postcard reminders, some delivered to the doors of invitees in person.

Between Sept. 9 and Sept. 19, the team tested 2,208 individuals at seven different community drive-up locations for both the presence of the virus in participants' nasal swabs and for antibodies against the virus in their blood, indicating a previous infection. Samples were analyzed at UofL's Regional Biocontainment Laboratory by the Center for Predictive Medicine for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease.

The study found that at least 0.2% participants had an active infection at the time of the study and nearly 4.4% (5.1 to 3.2%) people had detectable levels of antibodies in their blood, indicating they



have been exposed to the virus earlier in the year.

"Comparing our results with the data provided by the city, it seems that more than half the number of infected individuals have not been tested," said Rachel Keith, assistant professor of environmental medicine at UofL, who conducted the study. "Reasons for this discrepancy may be that many infected individuals may not have had any symptoms or may not have been tested due to access issues. I believe we have to do a better job in overcoming hesitations in testing, in encouraging testing and in testing individuals across different neighborhoods, even if they do not have any symptoms."

The researchers are planning to repeat randomized coronavirus testing in Jefferson County in November.

School of Medicine establishes endowed fund to combat racial inequality

UofL medical faculty leaders have pledged \$50,000 toward a \$1 million goal to address long-standing racial inequities in medical education.

The University of Louisville School of Medicine's Endowed Excellence Fund for Diversity has been established by several department chairs to address systemic racism. This is in response to the university's challenge asking for ideas and support in making UofL the nation's premier anti-racist metropolitan research university.

"I am proud and deeply grateful for the leadership of these faculty who are using their philanthropic and other financial resources to create a fund that will promote diversity at the School of Medicine both now and for the future," said Toni Ganzel, dean of the School of Medicine.

The endowment is expected to be used for scholarships, resident stipends, faculty recruitment and retention packages and other unforeseen opportunities. A dean-appointed selection committee composed of diverse members of the School of Medicine faculty, staff and students will help guide spending decisions.

The endowment was established by:

- Sean Francis, chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women's Health
- Ronald Gregg, chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
- William Guido, chair of Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology
- Irving Joshua, chair of Physiology
- Maureen McCall, professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- Craig S. Roberts, chair of Orthopaedic Surgery



UofL RECOGNIZED AS TOP COLLEGE FOR DIVERSITY

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine has recognized the University of Louisville as a 2020 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award designee and a 2020 Diversity Champion. This is the seventh year in a row UofL has received the HEED Award.

INSIGHT Into Diversity also recognizes selected institutions — those that rank in the top tier of HEED Award recipients — as Diversity Champions. These institutions exemplify an unyielding commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout their campus communities, across academic programs and at the highest administrative levels. Known for visionary leadership, Diversity Champions are institutions that serve as role models and set the standard for thousands of other U.S. college campuses striving for inclusive excellence, according to the publication.

"UofL is a visionary leader among institutions of higher education striving for inclusive excellence throughout their campus," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. "As a Diversity Champion school, UofL exceeds everyday expectations by developing successful strategies and programs that serve as models of excellence for other higher education institutions."

"We are honored by this recognition of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, but we need to do more and go beyond this work to move toward an anti-racism agenda," said V. Faye Jones, senior associate vice president for

Diversity and Equity. "UofL has pledged to take a stand against systemic racism. We will use the momentum of this time to actively engage in the ongoing hard work that is necessary to make transformational change in all areas of the institution."

