



# THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Friends,

The start of the fall semester is upon us at the University of Louisville, and it's hard to put into words how excited we are to have our students back on campus. The past year and a half has been difficult for everyone. Fighting the coronavirus pandemic meant that "normal" college life was for the most part derailed as we adapted to mostly remote learning, fewer opportunities for gatherings and fellowship and a general sense of isolation.

The college experience is supposed to be about togetherness and building community, and we're already seeing that in the early days of the fall term. We've welcomed back our students and celebrated successful Move-In Day activities that featured the usual mix of excited undergrads and anxious parents. We've also opened a new dorm, the Belknap Residence Hall, our first new on-campus housing option in 31 years. And it's state-of-the-art. Two more residence halls are currently under construction and set to open in fall 2022.

Things are starting to feel a little more normal on the Belknap Campus, but we know that they aren't entirely. And we're acting accordingly. Masks are again mandated in indoor spaces as we work to stop the spread of COVID and its even more infectious delta variant. We've made opportunities available for all students, faculty and staff to receive their COVID vaccinations, and we're strongly encouraging all Cardinals to get the shot. COVID testing also remains readily available on campus, and we've continued our contact tracing procedures and deep cleaning protocols.

We're looking forward to so many things during the coming academic year. Full stadiums for athletic events. Additional research breakthroughs from our faculty, who have been at the forefront in the battle to contain and overcome the virus. More opportunities for our Cardinal family to engage with the people of Louisville and the commonwealth to work together on important issues. We're so proud of them.

Going above and beyond the call of duty, our UofL Health family not only delivered COVID testing and vaccinations for our community and region, these health care heroes continue to work tirelessly on the front lines of our battle against the pandemic. We owe them a sincere debt of gratitude.

Despite ongoing challenges, UofL is beginning a new academic year full of promise and enthusiasm. We have stabilized our financial position, improved our credit outlook and shifted resources to advance the university's three-year strategic plan. The foundation also has established its strongest financial standing in its history.

Our work to further strengthen this great university has been enhanced by the addition of two new members to my team: Executive Vice President and University Provost Lori Gonzalez and General Counsel Angela Curry. With their help and that of leaders throughout the university, we continue to take action to advance our strategic plan. With the launch of the Center for Engaged Learning, the expansion of the Employee Success Center, the launch of our brand campaign and web improvement project, the university is daily becoming an even greater place to learn, work and invest.

We have much to celebrate as we make a full return to campus this fall. Though challenges remain, I'm confident that we can get through them with your continued guidance and support. Thanks, always, for being part of the Cardinal Family. Go Cards!



**Neeli Bendapudi**  
President, University of Louisville



## WELCOME WEEK KICKS OFF THE SEMESTER WITH OVER 90 EVENTS

Welcome Week 2021 brought back start-of-the-semester excitement after a year of online courses and lack of face-to-face interaction. With more than 90 events from Aug. 18-22, this

week is traditionally the time for first-year students to meet new friends. Additionally, second-year students were invited to join in on the activities to make up for their Welcome Week celebration being held virtually last year.

With the continued spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welcome Week staff prioritized student health and safety during the events. UofL followed all CDC guidelines, including mask mandates, regardless of vaccination status at any indoor event. Hybrid events offered both in-person and virtual options to join, which ensured that students felt safe and included while making those new memories this year.

"Welcome Week is extremely important to our new Cardinal students because it helps them get familiar with their new home," said Kaitlyn Robinson, assistant director of Welcome Week and Parents Association. "By participating in Welcome Week, they learn about campus resources available to them and make important connections that are going to help carry them during their first year here at UofL."

This year, events included Late Night Ice Cream Floats, SOUL, Sunrise Yoga and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Annual Icebreaker. The coordinators also developed new events for first- and second-year Cards to look forward to, such as the Cardinal Frenzy, the first-ever Welcome Back Concert and a prom for the first- and second-year students who did not get to experience their high school prom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2021-2022 STUDENTS MOVE IN AFTER CHALLENGING YEAR

From Aug. 18-19, students eager to put a challenging pandemic year behind them and experience the excitement of vibrant college campus life moved into residence halls across the Belknap Campus.

While some early move-ins had already taken place, the official move in start saw a stream of anxious first-year students and their families hauling belongings and sharing laughs, hugs and tears under warm, sunny skies. Three mini Cardinal Marching Bands provided that traditional college sound at different locations to add to the celebratory mood.

Approximately 3,500 students — 2,000 of them first-year students — moved into university housing before the start of classes Aug. 23. More than 450 are the first residents of the newly-opened Belknap Residence Hall, the university's first new residence hall in 31 years. It joins two other traditional-style halls that are primarily for first-year students, Miller Hall and Unitas Tower.

"The whole experience has been so pleasant," said incoming first-year student Mary Schook, who was moving into BRH. "The [Belknap Residence Hall] is super nice, my room is much bigger than I thought it would be and everyone I've met along the way has been so friendly and so welcoming."

Mary's mother, Nancy, said the pleasant move-in experience calmed some of her parental fears.

*"It's been very easy to move in and everyone is very helpful and I feel comfortable leaving her here," she said.*





## NEW ERA OF ON-CAMPUS HOUSING BEGINS

University of Louisville students, staff, administration and several trustees celebrated the continued transformation of Belknap Campus Aug. 16 with a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of the new Belknap Residence Hall.

The five-story, 452-bed residence hall is the first of two new halls for first-year students that are part of an \$87 million project replacing outdated buildings used for three decades for housing and university offices. The second hall will open in Fall 2022.

Designed with input from student advisors, the hall is located in the heart of Belknap Campus near classrooms, libraries, dining areas and restaurants, a campus movie theater and other activity spaces in the Student Activities Center and an abundance of tree and garden-lined grounds.

In addition to its single- and double-occupancy rooms, the hall also includes classroom space, private study rooms, a game room, kitchen and multiple laundry facilities. The residence hall is also in close proximity to UofL's new Cultural and Equity Center, set to open in October.

A third new residence hall, the 128-bed Denny Crum Hall, is also being constructed on Belknap Campus and scheduled to open in 2022. It will house a mixture of student-athletes and non-student-athletes.

By opening this new residence hall, we are beginning an exciting new era for UofL students on Belknap Campus. Not only are we welcoming back students, many of whom have been learning virtually due to COVID-19, we are presenting our first-year students with a thoroughly modern residence hall designed to help them achieve success.

## RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP HELPS KENTUCKY MANUFACTURERS ADOPT 3D PRINTING

UofL and the state's manufacturing extension partnership, the Advantage Kentucky Alliance, are launching a new program to help manufacturers adopt 3D printing technology for their businesses to develop better products and improve productivity.

The program, called Accelerated Innovative Manufacturing with 3D Printing, or AIM-3DP, will provide small and medium manufacturers in the automotive and aerospace sectors with training, mentorship and UofL-backed research, development and consulting. The work is backed by a new \$90,000 grant, one of only three of its kind in the country, from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

AIM-3DP will partner manufacturers with UofL researchers and students, who will work side-by-side to identify better, more efficient ways to manufacture, develop new product lines and grow. The projects can be any size, though AIM-3DP will select two larger projects for more in-depth work and will split costs with the company.

The AIM-3DP program builds on both partners' strengths. At UofL, companies will have access to a robust infrastructure for additive manufacturing and materials innovation, including the UofL Additive Manufacturing Institute of Science and Technology, known as AMIST, and its well-equipped center for rapid manufacturing.

"Kentucky has a rich manufacturing history to be proud of," said Will Metcalf, associate vice president for research development and partnerships in UofL's Office of Research and Innovation. "Through this work with AKA, we will help Kentucky manufacturers innovate, adopt cutting edge technologies, and stay competitive."



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM FUELS PHYSICIAN SUPPLY FOR SMALLER COMMUNITIES

A shortage of physicians has threatened the health of residents in rural communities in Kentucky for more than three decades. Approximately 40% of Kentuckians live in rural areas, yet only 17% of primary care physicians practice there, and Kentucky ranks 43rd nationally in its supply of primary care physicians relative to its population.

Primary care physicians – those in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics or other general health disciplines – ensure access to cost-effective management of illness and disability. Since more than half of physicians practice within 100 miles of where they do their residency training, it is important for physicians to train in the smaller communities where they are needed.

The UofL School of Medicine leads two family medicine residency programs in smaller communities in the state so that small and rural communities in Kentucky and beyond have access to primary care physicians.

The Glasgow Family Medicine Residency Program trains resident physicians in the south-central Kentucky community of

approximately 14,000, preparing them to practice in a similar small or rural community. Glasgow's T.J. Samson Community Hospital is the primary clinical training site for the residency program and was named one of the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals for 2021 by the Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Building on the success of the Glasgow program, the University of Louisville Owensboro Family Medicine Residency Program launched in 2020. As the academic sponsor for the program, UofL provides not only experience, but residency director Jon Sivoravong and other faculty. The three-year program currently has 13 residents and is approved for up to 18, graduating an average of six family medicine physicians per year.

