



UofL CELEBRATES SPRING 2022 COMMENCEMENT

Spring Commencement at the University of Louisville returned to its pre-global pandemic location on Saturday, May 14, with indoor morning and afternoon ceremonies held at the KFC Yum! Center in downtown Louisville. A total of 1,900 graduates attended as the university conferred approximately 3,300 degrees and certificates. Interim UofL President Lori Stewart Gonzalez led the commencement exercises. Two graduates were chosen as student speakers and an honorary doctorate was awarded during the afternoon ceremony to Kevin Nolan, president and CEO of GE Appliances.

Jesten Sylvester Slaw, a U.S. Army veteran receiving his juris doctor from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, was the morning ceremony speaker. Slaw, now a captain in the Army Reserve, served one combat tour in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army and was introduced to UofL when he served at Fort Knox.

Slaw was featured in a recent UofL Magazine story about the longtime partnership between the law school and Louisville's Central High School. He hopes to be a congressman someday as well as run an equal housing nonprofit.

Piper Marie Midle, a member of the Cardinal Marching Band receiving her bachelor of science in secondary education in mathematics, was the afternoon ceremony speaker. After graduating, Midle will return to her alma mater, South Oldham High School in Crestwood, Kentucky, to teach mathematics.

In their nomination letter, College of Education & Human Development associate professors Sue Peters and Shelley Thomas praised Midle for overcoming the challenges of becoming a teacher during a pandemic that upended school schedules and locations and left few true classroom experiences to learn from.

An honorary doctor of science degree was conferred upon Kevin Nolan, president and CEO of GE Appliances, a Haier Company. Nolan leads strategic investments for GE Appliances, and his work has resulted in \$50 million to help support public education initiatives in Louisville to provide equitable access to quality educational opportunities for all students. For Nolan's commitment to public education, in 2020, he received the Kelly Award from the Kentucky Department of Education.



Dear Friends,

The conclusion of the spring semester always brings a celebratory spirit to the University of Louisville's campus. Students, faculty and staff literally and figuratively close the books on classes, projects and other initiatives with the spring commencement exercises as the final celebration of a year's worth of personal, professional and academic successes.

About 1,900 graduates participated in the May 2022 commencement exercises. In higher education, I believe there is nothing that compares to watching our students walk across the stage. I think about the thousands of Cardinals who will soon unleash their potential and take on the careers and complex challenges of our world. The contributions our graduates make as engaged citizens, bold leaders and thoughtful scholars create thriving communities and society.

Our students' success is a testament to the commitment of more than 7,000 employees – nearly 3,000 of which are faculty – who

play vital roles in our students' academic, professional and personal development. Our employees work year-round to create promising futures for our students, our community and society.

These President's Reports always include a few recent newsworthy highlights. However, I encourage the readers of this particular report to visit the [UofL News website](#) and see the many examples of how UofL strives to be a great place to learn, work and connect.

My thanks to all who make UofL thrive in the ever-changing landscape of higher education.

Lori Stewart Gonzalez
Interim President, University of Louisville





UofL launches a new vision of health with largest single gift in its history

A catalytic investment in the University of Louisville will revitalize two currently historic buildings in Downtown Louisville. On May 25, the university announced the creation of the future home of the Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute New Vision of Health Campus. The new space will enable the institute to continue its pioneering work addressing holistic health challenges for Louisville and beyond. Engaging scientists, health care practitioners, governments, organizations and community members in studying how natural, social and personal environments impact health, the institute is emerging as a world leader in decoding the nature of individual and environmental factors that promote optimum health and prevent disease.

UofL hosts inaugural Black Business Summit to connect with the community

UofL's inaugural Black Business Summit was held April 28 in the Main Ballroom of the Student Activities Center. Hosted by UofL Interim President Lori Stewart Gonzalez, along with Louisville ambassadors and business leaders Alice Houston, Ira Salls, Junior Bridgeman, Darrell Griffith, UofL Interim Athletic Director Josh Heird and new UofL men's basketball coach Kenny Payne, the Black Business Summit showcased how collaboration can support student success and build a talent pipeline to all Louisville businesses. More than 300 guests attended representing 120 businesses from all sectors and areas of the community.

Speakers shared stories about their personal connection with UofL and the importance of empowering students to become the next generation of business leaders.

The Black Business Summit also was an opportunity for the university to share the mission and vision of the new Center for Engaged Learning, a resource designed to improve students' educational experience while creating opportunities with our community businesses. These opportunities include internships, apprenticeships, research projects, community service and more.

UofL and the Department of Procurement Services are committed to engaging with the local community to increase awareness of potential opportunities for supplier diversity and develop mutually beneficial relationships with all businesses.



LaunchIt bootcamp graduates new cohort of entrepreneurs and innovators

The University of Louisville's LaunchIt entrepreneurial bootcamp has wrapped its spring 2022 session, graduating nine innovators and founders working to create cleaner fuels, improve internet access and more.

LaunchIt, through the UofL Office of Research and Innovation, is an intensive 10-week hybrid course focused on Steve Blank's lean launchpad methodology. The program includes coaching, mentoring and curriculum including lessons on customer discovery, product validation, marketing and other considerations when preparing for market launch.

The LaunchIt program is offered by UofL New Ventures, a group within the UofL Office of Research and Innovation that works to launch and grow startups and is supported in part by Amplify Louisville. LaunchIt coaches include the office's Entrepreneurs in Residence, knowledgeable founders with an in-depth understanding of launching and growing a business. The program also taps into the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem for its speaker lineup, bringing in real-world experience and insights of local innovators, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.



UofL Health expands family medicine services in south Louisville

UofL Health and the University of Louisville are increasing access to family medicine in south Louisville on the Mary & Elizabeth Hospital campus. On April 21, UofL Health announced that three primary care providers who are UofL School of Medicine faculty along with eight first-year resident physicians are opening a new office in Medical Plaza 1, Suite 306, 4402 Churchman Ave. The new office becomes a second location of UofL Physicians - Family Medicine at Cardinal Station on Central Avenue.



"This is a great opportunity to increase access and health services to an underserved population," said Jonathan Becker, chair of the Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine at the UofL School of Medicine. "The immediate benefit is to south Louisville, but long term, the impact is much larger as our future physicians share best practices developed here with other communities and the state."

New program offers support for Black and Brown students interested in the medical profession

Lack of mentorship and exposure to the medical field is often a barrier for Black and Brown students interested in becoming doctors, but UofL is working to change that through the Porter Scholars in Medicine Program.

The program is aimed at UofL's Porter Scholars, a scholarship program for exceptional undergraduate students of color from Kentucky and neighboring Indiana counties. First-year students through seniors interested in health care go through an application process to take part in the niche Porter Scholars in Medicine Program, now in its second year.

Students receive mentoring and shadowing experiences from UofL physicians and are also able to participate in clinical experiences including simulation and ultrasound. They learn about the medical school application process and entrance exam, gain insight related to the history of medical disparities in underrepresented communities and connect with students in UofL's chapter of the Student National Medical Association. The program also hosts book clubs and discussions.

Brit Anderson, a physician in UofL's Department of Pediatrics, along with V. Faye Jones, associate vice president for health affairs - diversity initiatives at the Health Sciences Center and vice chair of inclusive excellence in the Department of Pediatrics, teamed up with Leondra Gully, advisor for the Woodford R. Porter Scholarship Program, to create the new initiative.

One future goal of the program is to engage students in off-campus experiences. Gully and her team are working to coordinate an opportunity this fall for Porter Scholars to see a live surgery through the Kentucky Science Center Pulse of Surgery program. Organizers also hope to explore ways to eventually secure funding for students who want to attend medical school.