



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ISSUE 126
FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The Cardinal Community continues to soar during this spring semester. There is a lot for us to be excited about on our campuses and beyond.

Cranes, bulldozers and other big equipment rolled onto our Belknap Campus to begin work on a new 114,000-square-foot building, which will serve as a hub for next-generation engineering education, research and student life, all aimed at driving the growth of Kentucky's technology-enabled economy. My thanks to Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg and so many other distinguished guests who attended the formal announcement in February.

Excellence in education does not stop at our campus borders. I am pleased to report that UofL's many online programs continue to be ranked among the "Best Online Programs" by U.S. News and World Report. Our online bachelor's in business and bachelor's in psychology programs recently broke into the publication's top-20 national rankings – a distinction that illustrates our commitment to accessibility and student success.

In that same spirit, UofL is investing \$2.4 million toward the Cardinal Commitment Grant this year. The grant helps close the gap between eligible Kentucky students' financial aid and the cost of attendance, which includes tuition, dining, transportation, books and other expenses.

Our commitment to care doesn't stop there. I can't stress enough how proud I am of the students who raised more than a half-million dollars at the 11th-annual raiseRED dance marathon to aid in the fight against pediatric cancer.

These are just a few of the many ways UofL leverages innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and compassion to help our community thrive.

Kim Schatzel, PhD

President, University of Louisville



Kim Schatzel



New hub for next-generation engineering education, research

The University of Louisville is constructing a new building for next-generation engineering education, aimed at driving the growth of Kentucky's technology-enabled economy. The four-story, 114,000-square-foot building will include classrooms, a makerspace, high-tech lab facilities and room for events and student engagement.

"Extending Kentucky's record-breaking economic momentum depends on our ability to innovate and strengthen our workforce," Gov. Andy Beshear said. "This new investment and partnership with UofL show our commitment to being a destination for talented people and businesses looking to succeed in the key industries of the future."

Construction is already underway and is expected to be complete in summer 2025, just in time for the Speed School's centennial celebration.

Yum! Brands, UofL launch 'Accelerating Growth' to train senior franchise leaders

Yum! Brands, Inc. and the University of Louisville announced the launch of new "Accelerating Growth" executive education programs at the [Yum! Center for Global Franchise Excellence](#). The new programs will focus on equipping operations leaders to take on senior management roles in franchise organizations, an area identified as a key opportunity by franchisees and leadership at the center, which has been providing education for aspiring entrepreneurs through the [UofL College of Business](#) since 2021.

"We are thrilled to partner with the University of Louisville and address a need of the industry – training a new generation of leaders to take on senior management roles in franchise businesses," said Wanda Williams, head, Global Franchising, Yum! Brands.

First graduates of paraprofessional program begin careers in behavioral health

The UofL Trager Institute recently celebrated the graduation of the inaugural cohort of apprentices from the [Trauma-Informed FlourishCare™ Paraprofessional Program](#), an innovative 18-month program designed to equip participants for careers in behavioral health. It places a special emphasis on fostering recovery for individuals with substance use and various mental health needs across Kentucky.

Seven graduates received certifications as community health workers and community support specialists, as well as certification as peer support specialists during their six-month pre-apprenticeship. This graduation marks a milestone in the institute's [commitment to cultivating a workforce](#) dedicated to addressing behavioral health challenges faced by communities in Kentucky.





Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the University of Louisville's raiseRED fundraiser brought in more than \$550,000 to support pediatric cancer and blood disorders research and patient services.

Endowment to support study of immune system and genetics

To remain at the forefront of immune system and disease research, the University of Louisville School of Medicine will establish the Carolyn Siler Browning Endowed Chair in Immunogenetics. The Executive & Compensation Committee of UofL's Board of Trustees approved the request submitted by University Advancement at its meeting last December.

Researchers are just now uncovering the extent of immunogenetic diversity among human populations. Genetic diversity in immune genes significantly impacts individual immune responses, with critical implications for how people develop and administer novel vaccines and therapeutics.

School of Medicine Interim Dean Jeffrey Bumpous said that the university is well-prepared to support this research with equipment that other institutes do not have, and the endowment will accelerate efforts to understand the rapidly expanding field of immunogenomics.

UofL explores AI innovations

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve in the medical field, UofL is innovatively exploring the directions in which the technology can be taken.

UofL researchers have developed a new AI-powered tool that could help doctors diagnose autism at a younger age. The tool has been shown to be 98.5% accurate in kids as young as two years old, which could give doctors more time to intervene with potentially life-changing therapy. Their results were published in the journal [Biomedicines](#).

UofL is also investigating how AI could help improve patient outcomes during heart surgery. A \$750,000 grant from the American Heart Association will allow UofL researchers to advance AI specifically for acute kidney injury and complications during or following cardiac surgery.

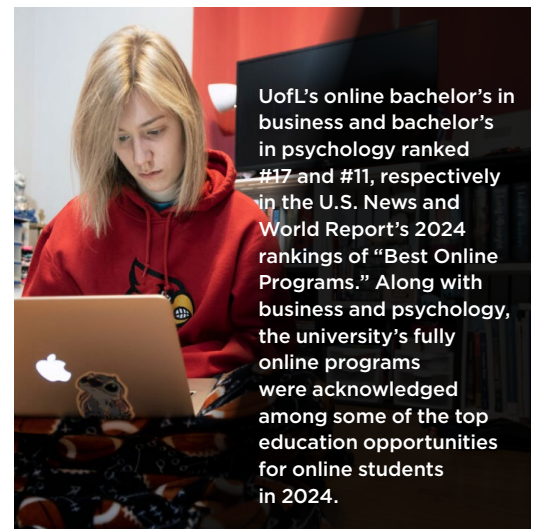
"By drawing from both medicine and engineering, we can come up with a better solution that improves lives," said Mohamed Khudri, a [bioengineering](#) undergraduate student.

UofL President Kim Schatzel named among most influential people in Louisville

University of Louisville President Kim Schatzel's influence in the City of Louisville is being recognized and celebrated after just one year at the helm of the city's premier metropolitan university. Schatzel was named among [Louisville Business First's Power 50](#) for 2024, which identifies the city's most influential people in business and related communities. She secured a position on the fourth-annual edition of the list after being included in the publication's "Five on the Rise" in 2023.

Returning to the Power 50 list is [UofL Health CEO Tom Miller](#), who has led the university's academic health system since early 2019. The list also includes major university donors, former trustees and a dozen alumni.

UofL online degrees place among top in the country



UofL's online bachelor's in business and bachelor's in psychology ranked #17 and #11, respectively in the U.S. News and World Report's 2024 rankings of "Best Online Programs." Along with business and psychology, the university's fully online programs were acknowledged among some of the top education opportunities for online students in 2024.