



Dear Colleagues,

I have enjoyed a full, productive, successful and fun first year as the University of Louisville's 19th president. When I arrived on campus last February, I immediately felt a strong sense of Cardinal pride among our faculty, staff and students. It was and remains a pride marked by ongoing successes as well as the drive to set new standards of excellence and become better versions of ourselves. As a Carnegie Research 1 and Community Engaged university, we owe it to ourselves and our community to be nothing less than that.

Excellence has been in UofL's DNA for 225 years with no signs of letting up. Our first-year enrollment last fall was the highest on record. We continue to move up the ladder in U.S. News and World Report's ranking of "Best Value Schools." Leadership grows with the addition of new deans for our College of Arts & Sciences, School of Public Health and Information Sciences and Raymond A. Kent School of Social Work and Family Science.

Research and Innovation soared to new heights in 2023, with UofL research expenditures totaling a record \$230 million. As a premiere metropolitan university, UofL's ties with the community strengthen thanks to strategic partnerships with businesses, government and community organizations. UofL Health-UofL Hospital, meanwhile, also celebrated a milestone: 200 years of compassionate care, medical innovation and serving the underserved.

But there is still much to do. All academic and operational units – including my leadership team and I – are establishing new strategic plans that will keep our great university on the forefront of quality higher education. I very much look forward to sharing more good news with you as 2024 unfolds.

Kim Schatzel, PhD
President, University of Louisville



UofL awarded \$11.5 million for research to prevent and treat eating disorders

University of Louisville researcher Cheri Levinson has been awarded \$11.5 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to better understand and address some of the most devastating effects of eating disorders. The UofL research, backed by three grants, will investigate how eating disorders may develop in childhood and adolescence, their contribution to suicidal behaviors and how innovative personalized treatment may offer hope. Levinson specializes in the study and intervention of eating and anxiety disorders.

Through an NIH research project grant totaling nearly \$4 million, Levinson's team will study how eating disorders develop in childhood and beyond. A second project grant, also nearly \$4 million, will identify patterns of anorexia nervosa – an eating disorder characterized by a fear of gaining weight. The third grant, a prestigious NIH Director's New Innovator Award, also worth nearly \$4 million across two phases, will further the creation and dissemination of a novel personalized treatment for eating disorders and integrate social determinants of health (food insecurity, racism) into treatment.

From left: Kevin Gardner, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation; Dayna Touron, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Cheri Levinson, associate professor; and Kim Schatzel, president.



UofL secures \$6.5 million to enhance training for nursing professionals

The University of Louisville has received \$6.5 million through two federal grants to help increase Kentuckians' access to health care, particularly in underserved rural and urban areas.

Of the total grant funding, \$3.9 million was awarded to Heather Mitchell, associate professor and interim associate dean for the undergraduate and pre-licensure programs, to develop an accelerated Licensed Practical Nurse-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (LPN-to-BSN) pathway for nurses in medically underserved areas of Kentucky. The program is a statewide collaboration between the UofL School of Nursing and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and will also include academic-practice collaborations with three large health systems across Kentucky – UofL Health, Owensboro Health Inc., and Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation.

A second \$2.6 million Health Resources and Services Administration grant was awarded to Sara Robertson, associate professor and interim associate dean for the DNP and APRN programs. Robertson is partnering with the UofL Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine, Family Health Centers of Louisville and Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation to increase the education of nurse practitioners from diverse populations, including underrepresented minorities and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



Interim Provost Gerry Bradley, HRSA grant principal investigator Heather Mitchell, scholarship recipient Quinesia James, HRSA grant principal investigator Sara Robertson, School of Nursing Interim Dean Mary DeLetter.



Congratulations to the Class of 2023

The University of Louisville's December 2023 commencement ceremony for August and December degree candidates took place Dec. 15, 2023, at the downtown Louisville KFC Yum! Center. Of the approximately 2,300 students earning degrees, more than 900 took part in the ceremony. UofL President Kim Schatzel presided at the event, and School of Nursing outstanding student Ellen Tinker was the student speaker.

UofL, seminary name 2024 Grawemeyer Award winners



The University of Louisville and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary announced 2024 recipients of five, \$100,000 Grawemeyer Awards Dec. 4-8, 2023. UofL presents the annual prizes in music, world order, psychology, education and religion and gives the religion prize jointly with the seminary.

The winners are:

- Aleksandra Vrebalov, a Serbian-American composer who won the music prize for a chorale work transcending a single language, culture or religion to express how all life is interconnected.
- Neta Crawford, a University of Oxford international relations scholar who won the world order prize for analyzing the Pentagon's carbon footprint and its effect on climate change.
- Ann Masten, a University of Minnesota child development scholar who won the psychology prize for finding that resilience comes from "ordinary magic" within us and our supportive connections with others.
- Laura Hamilton and Kelly Nielsen, two University of California sociologists who co-won the education prize for exploring the racial consequences of funding cuts at public universities.
- The Rev. Charles Halton, an Episcopal priest in Lexington, Ky., who explained how embracing God as a being with human qualities can inspire us to become better people.

UofL is increasing aid for in-state residents

More students from Kentucky will be able to graduate from college with less student debt with help from the expanded Cardinal Commitment Grant. The University of Louisville is investing \$2.4 million toward the grant in 2024 as part of its commitment to increasing access to higher education and lessening the financial burden of college for students. The grant will help close the gap between eligible students' financial aid and the cost of attendance, which includes tuition, dining, transportation, books and other expenses.

All first-time freshmen Kentucky residents who have been accepted to UofL and have a demonstrated financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid are eligible for the automatic award, which could be either full tuition coverage or range from \$2,000-\$9,000. The grant is renewable for students who continue to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, but is locked based on the award amount offered in the students' first year at UofL regardless of changes to a student's state or federal aid.

