

Presidential Perspective

Where Are We Going?



One of the greatest pleasures of my new job as President of the University of Kentucky is getting to know the alumni. I have already met many alumni, and I look forward to meeting others of you in the future.

I am often asked in these alumni encounters what I see as the goals for this University. As we enter another New Year, this would seem to be a good time to outline some goals for UK:

Here they are:

1) NATIONAL REPUTATION. I want to see the University of Kentucky become recognized as a national leader in public higher education. Our goal is to compete academically with the best institutions.

2) ACCESS. UK should provide opportunities for higher education to as many Kentuckians as possible. Our community colleges are key in this role of access to higher education. This year, we have almost 30,000 students enrolled in the community colleges. We want to offer educational opportunities to even more Kentuckians through the community college system.

3) QUALITY STUDENTS. At our Lexington campus we must continue to attract the very best students to undergraduate and graduate programs. Our goal is to enroll the top young scholars in our state. We are well on our way. College board scores at UK's Lexington campus have gone up each of the last several years. This year, there are 72 high school valedictorians in our freshman class. Our goal is to maintain the present size of our undergraduate student body, but

continue to improve the overall quality.

4) RESEARCH. UK is a Research University of the First Class, according to the Carnegie Commission. UK is one of only 45 such public universities in the country; the only one in Kentucky. Our goal is to improve on this prestigious ranking by stimulating the development of our graduate, professional and research programs.

We are fortunate to have many excellent faculty at UK. We need more. Attracting and retaining good faculty is probably the most important, and most critical, job ahead. It certainly ranks in my mind as the university's singular highest priority goal.

5) LAND-GRANT ROLE. UK is a land-grant university, and we will emphasize the traditional programs which go along with being a land-grant university, programs such as the Agricultural Extension Service and programs of sponsored research. In so doing, we will uncover and make available new knowledge that Kentuckians need.

6) INCREASE SERVICES. I want to enhance the services provided to Kentuckians, no matter where they live. Ours is the only Kentucky institution with a statewide mission. We should thus be a participant in the development of services and new industries and in improvements for the existing small businesses and industry. This institution should develop information and technology

needed to put Kentucky at the forefront in economic development.

7) IMPROVE EDUCATION. Through effective programs in teacher training, continuing education, and through our 14 community colleges, UK can improve the educational attainment and employability of people of the Commonwealth. UK will be a leading advocate for improving Kentucky's traditionally low educational rankings.

Can these goals be accomplished?

Not unless we start to work now. We must ask Kentuckians to consider — in their hearts as well as their minds — how Kentucky will invest its resources for the future of our children. We must carefully protect what we have so carefully built thus far and build upon it. This will require financial support, of course. But I believe that if an institution is standing still, it is actually moving backwards. So I don't think Kentucky has any acceptable choice other than to help UK meet these goals.

How can you help?

Join with us, in supporting programs that will help build a University which we all want and which our state needs. Tell our legislators and governmental leaders that you want the University of Kentucky to be the best.

I am looking forward to 1988. I hope you are, too. Please accept my thanks for your support in the past and the best wishes of the Roselle family and the entire University community for a happy and prosperous New Year.

David Roselle