

PRESIDENTIAL CONVERSATION



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Attitude of Gratitude

In this season of thanksgiving I want to express personal thanks to the many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the University of Kentucky who are helping it achieve its dream, master the myriad challenges it faces, and contribute to its success as the flagship university of the Commonwealth.

We have so many wonderful accomplishments to celebrate. On measures of excellence, whether made by national organizations and colleagues or by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education or by our own Strategic Plan standards, we are succeeding in moving toward the top-20 goal set in HB1 in 1997.

UK is making an impact statewide by utilizing the Cooperative Extension Service network, which has an office in every Kentucky county, to deliver information and services on economic development and health to all Kentuckians. Whether you're living in the city, a small town, or the countryside, there is something of value to be found through our Cooperative Extension program.

Students at UK graduate at nearly double the rate of any other public university in Kentucky. We are either meeting or significantly progressing on goals set for student recruiting, excellence, retention and graduation. Part of UK's Capital Campaign fund-raising goal is dedicated to increasing scholarship opportunities at the university. Scholarship programs like Robinson Scholars, Singletary Scholars, Merit Scholars, Governor's Scholars, and Governor's School for the Arts scholars as well as strengthening on-campus academic support programs and services. Every day UK students are doing something or learning something extraordinary.

The UK health care enterprise has grown substantially beyond the Chandler Medical Center. Patients from all 120 Kentucky counties avail themselves of diagnosis and treatment in cancer, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, spinal cord injury, obesity, ophthalmology, dental disease, and so much more. Every day UK researchers are working to find better ways to diagnosis, treat, and cure.

Our efforts to achieve all that this university can become are reflected in the need for specialized spaces. Some very important buildings are either newly occupied or under construction, including the Biomedical and Biological Sciences Research Building, the Center for Pharmaceutical Science and Technology at the UK Coldstream Research Campus, four residence halls, two parking structures, and the Main Building, brought back to life after the devastating fire in May 2001. In addition to administrative offices, the Main Building now contains the UK Visitor's Center, a public meeting room, and "smart" classrooms.

So let me say thank you again for your support through membership in the UK Alumni Association and your gifts of goodwill, time and money to your university and your college. Patsy and I appreciate the opportunity to work diligently on your behalf for our alma mater. We extend to you our holiday greetings as 2004 comes to a close and we look forward to all that will be done in 2005.

President Lee T. Todd Jr.