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Chairman, Board of Trustees
October 17, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

ADVANCING KENTUCKY TOGETHER – PARTNER OF CHOICE

Recommendation: One year ago, this Board of Trustees directed the President and campus community to take intentional and strategic steps to become the university "that — along with partners — does more than anyone in the country to improve the health of the state it serves."

In support of that ambitious but essential mission, the Board directed measures to:

- Develop a strategy to meet the state's health-related workforce needs in both talent and infrastructure.
- Expand and deepen community partnerships across UK HealthCare, the campus and Cooperative Extension.
- Plan for a second Healthy Kentucky Research Building (HKRB 2) along with the talent necessary to support it.
- Formally launch and expand statewide the Advancing Kentucky Together (AKT) Network, evolving UK's affiliation model to address not only providers but also communities — their holistic health, workforce and education needs.

Over the past year, substantial progress has been made in each of these areas.

Design and planning are underway for a multi-billion-dollar bed tower that will allow UK HealthCare to meet the state's growing patient care and advanced subspecialty needs. At the same time, two of four planned regional ambulatory clinics have opened in Central Kentucky to expand primary care access for UK employees and underserved areas of Lexington.

UK HealthCare has forged deeper and more formal partnerships with community providers including ARH and Pikeville Medical Center, and has begun integrating human resources, technology and electronic health systems at its two community hospitals — UK King's Daughters Medical Center and UK St. Claire.

Building on Cooperative Extension's presence in all 120 counties, UK HealthCare and Extension have launched Advancing Kentucky Health Together — a collaboration that aligns UK's land-grant mission with its capacity to provide care in more communities.

As UK prepares for the 2026 legislative session, the institution's top capital infrastructure priority is state funding for Healthy Kentucky Research Building 2 (HKRB 2). This space is essential to support innovative, interdisciplinary research across more than 70 centers and institutes. In FY 2023–24, UK expended $527.7 million in research and development, generating $937 million in economic activity and supporting 4,712 jobs — half directly tied to research initiatives. HKRB 2 will expand that capacity, uniting expertise across science, engineering and computational fields to advance chronic disease research and deliver new solutions to improve Kentuckians' health.

Importantly, the Advancing Kentucky Together (AKT) Network was formally launched — a bold, statewide initiative convened by the University of Kentucky to align public, private and nonprofit partners in addressing the Commonwealth's most pressing challenges. Rooted in a long-standing commitment to partnership, the AKT Network amplifies local solutions, connects state and community resources and scales impact across four focus areas.

Against that backdrop, the President and University community are directed to continue working with partners to co-create scalable, community-based solutions that advance opportunity and wellbeing in every corner of the Commonwealth — north, south, east and west — through the following focus areas:

Healthcare Access and Innovation

- Expand care delivery beyond traditional settings using AI tools such as virtual assistants and remote care platforms, with a focus on rural and underserved communities.
- Advance a comprehensive AI strategy for healthcare emphasizing predictive analytics, operational efficiency, ethical use and equitable access.

Education and Opportunity Pipelines

- Align dual credit and transfer programs to ensure high school and technical college coursework contributes meaningfully to degrees and career readiness.
- Develop accelerated degree pathways in high-demand sectors like healthcare and manufacturing to fast-track students into the workforce.

Economic and Workforce Development

- Create seamless transfer and career pathways in key sectors like healthcare and manufacturing to maximize credit transfer and degree completion.
- Through OneUK, align UK's educational, research and community resources with industry leaders, offering companies access to world-class talent, cutting-edge research and a thriving collaborative ecosystem.

Community and Land-Grant Engagement

- Deepen community relationships through listening, co-creation and mutual benefit.
- Expand and promote Extension programs in mental health, financial literacy and youth development tailored to local needs.

Six major partners from across the state — in health, education and life sciences — have signed formal partnership agreements to improve clinical care protocols, create seamless graduate pathways and help build a stronger regional innovation economy in the life sciences. Another 60 inquiries have been made regarding potential partnerships, and several demonstration projects have launched or expanded in areas such as food as health, social work and economic development.

A governance structure and steering committee are now in place to provide strategic direction, formally track partnerships and establish measurable goals and metrics to ensure accountability and sustained progress.

The University of Kentucky is advancing toward each of the foundational goals set forth — to be the partner that uses its full capacity to improve the health and prosperity of this state. But the work is far from done.

Kentucky faces an era of rapid change and persistent challenge: improving health outcomes yet still confronting disparities; economic expansion yet continued low labor participation; record enrollment and graduation levels yet too many barriers between K–12, college and career. Across all these domains, one factor increasingly defines progress — technology.

Artificial Intelligence, big data and energy innovation are reshaping every sector. Now is the time to harness both the opportunities and challenges these forces present, to ensure UK remains the partner for progress Kentucky needs in a 21st-century economy.

To that end, this Board of Trustees directs the President and campus community to make the University of Kentucky the partner of choice for Kentucky in AI and technology development — advancing the Commonwealth's health, education, economy and wellbeing through innovation.

Whether increasing access to healthcare or improving transfer pathways, AI is a differentiator. Yet it also brings new questions of data security, integrity and the ethical implications of technology that replicates thought and creativity at unprecedented scale and speed.

The AI revolution is here.

This University — with partners — must lead in adopting and applying AI in ways that ensure Kentucky's success.

Action taken: ☑ Approved ❑ Disapproved ❑ Other _____