

PRESIDENT'S REPORT JANUARY 2024

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



MORE THAN 1,300 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY STUDENTS CROSSED THE STAGE AT THE DECEMBER 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES.

The University of Kentucky closed out the fall 2023 semester on Friday, Dec. 15 by celebrating more than 1,300 graduates who participated in the December 2023 commencement ceremonies. Overall, 2,000 December 2023 degree candidates were conferred by the UK Board of Trustees. This conditionally includes 1,321 undergraduate, 665 graduate and 14 professional degree candidates.

Deidra White, a 2022 graduate and current UK Master of Fine Arts student, delivered a spoken word piece titled "Here in Kentucky" during the formal remarks of each ceremony. The piece celebrated Kentucky, and the completion of the Kentucky Can fundraising campaign.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES REAFFIRMATION PROCESS.

In March, representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges visited UK for a comprehensive, decennial review. UK President Eli Capilouto announced in December that affirmation has been approved by accreditors with no areas of noncompliance or concern out of more than 70 standards evaluated. The report totaled more than 600 pages with some 3,000 points of evidence — a massive undertaking by people in every part of the UK enterprise.

The accreditation and reaffirmation process ensures UK's eligibility for federal financial aid and confirms that the university is on the right track in furthering its mission — to advance Kentucky.

MARKEY STRONG SCHOLARS PROGRAM EMPOWERS THE NEXT GENERATION OF CANCER RESEARCHERS.

The Markey STRONG Scholars Program at UK's Markey Cancer Center is a transformative 10-week initiative crafted to equip college students from underrepresented backgrounds with crucial career skills. Established in 2021, this program aims to cultivate diversity in the cancer research field, addressing critical disparities in cancer care and treatment.

The 2023 cohort benefited from personalized research opportunities, cancer-focused lectures, clinical shadowing experiences and networking sessions with experts in the field. The emphasis on diversity within the cohort has been instrumental in shaping the students' perspectives on integrating their ethnic backgrounds into their future careers.

Supported by funding from various sources including the American Cancer Society and the UK College of Medicine Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the program stands as a beacon of support, mentorship and opportunity for aspiring individuals looking to make a difference in the fight against cancer disparities.

