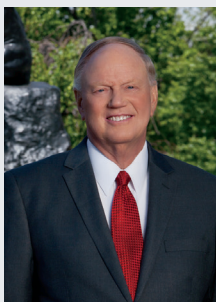


# The President's Report

Issue 52 January 2014

## A Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Family of UofL,



As Kentucky legislators reconvened in Frankfort earlier this month, there was the expected news — the state doesn't have enough revenue to meet the needs of our state, most notably the needs of higher education. We understand the continued slow revenue growth the state is experiencing as well as the

structural imbalance between the state's revenues and

expenditures has prompted the governor to recommend a 2.5 percent budget cut for higher education, including UofL. That cut would be the 14th in 14 years and result in \$3.5 million less for our operating budget each of the next two years. Therefore, we have committed, along with the governor, to encourage our legislators to consider new sources of revenue such as expanded gaming and reform of our antiquated tax system.

We will also continue to support the Council on Postsecondary Education's recommendation of more money for higher education in each of the next two fiscal years. That investment would pay for UofL's top priorities which include: more operating money, more money for

Bucks for Brains and construction of a new classroom building. We appreciate Gov. Beshear including funding for Bucks for Brains and the classroom building in his budget recommendations. We understand these are tight budget times but we hope state lawmakers will be bold this legislative session and provide the money needed to keep UofL on its upward trajectory.

We look forward to sharing more good news with you as 2014 evolves.

James R. Ramsey



Credit: Kentucky Office of Creative Services

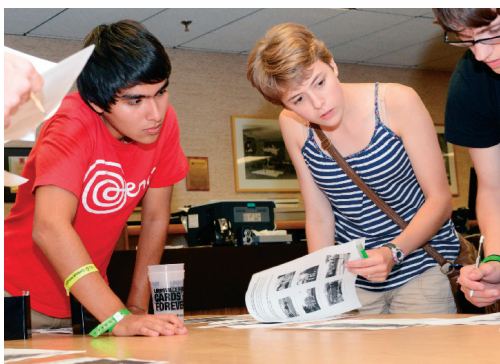
**"We are fitting the pieces together to create a seamless, cradle-to-career education system that is better preparing our students for this complex world."**

— Gov. Steve Beshear, 2014 State of the Commonwealth Address

## 2014 legislative priorities

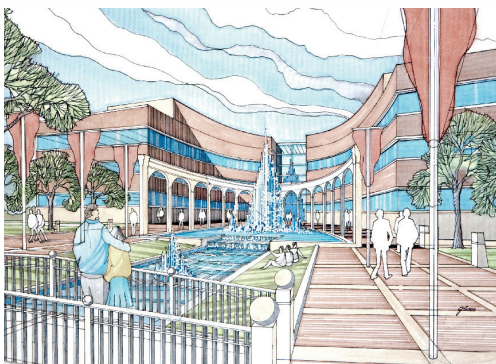
Like Gov. Beshear, we at UofL recognize that funds are lean, but we refuse to abandon our commitment to higher education. Between 1998 and 2013, our six-year graduation rate climbed from 30.1% to 53.5%, and undergraduate degrees awarded jumped from 1,734 to 2,731. In order to build upon this positive momentum, our 2014 legislative priorities include:

### Keeping education affordable



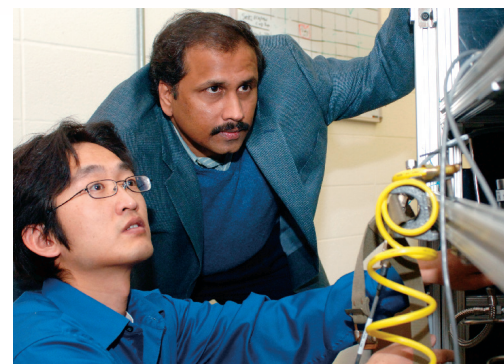
As one of the Commonwealth's two research universities, UofL faces unique challenges in meeting the needs of the business community and ensuring that higher education remains affordable. We embrace the budget model recommended by the Council on Postsecondary Education and urge the General Assembly to consider innovative ways to fund our operating needs in full.

### Building for the future



UofL is attracting both a higher quantity and quality of students, as witnessed by the average ACT score of 25.2 posted by this fall's incoming class. The construction of a new academic building on the Belknap campus is critical to the university's ability to facilitate the highest caliber scholarship among growing numbers.

### Fueling the economic engine



Research is the engine that drives Kentucky's economic growth. Through the Research Challenge Trust Fund, also known as the Bucks for Brains program, UofL has generated:

- \$ Additional tax revenues of \$3.6 million for Louisville
- \$ Additional tax revenues of \$19 million for Kentucky
- \$ Employment gains of over 1,500 for Kentucky
- \$ Increase in earnings of \$290.4 million for Kentucky
- \$ Net economic impact of \$840.6 million for Kentucky
- \$ Influx of \$390.5 million in non-state extramural funding



Watch a video featuring our researchers' accomplishments at [UofLresearchvideo.com](http://UofLresearchvideo.com)



# Bucks for Brains program achieves extraordinary results

Funding the Bucks for Brains program makes good economic sense, but the best outcomes of the program are the improvements made to people's lives. From research in organ transplants, to cardiology, to spinal rehabilitation and more, UofL researchers continue to translate discoveries into new techniques and applied therapies. The stories of the first Bucks for Brains participants below represent the significant impact UofL has on the health of Kentuckians and the world.



## Breakthroughs in organ transplants

Suzanne T. Ildstad, MD, PhD, UofL's first Bucks for Brains researcher, and her team developed a transplant treatment that uses stem cells to avoid the need for anti-rejection medications, the side effects of which often devastate the body. Given the treatment's clinical trial success, Ildstad signed a global licensing agreement with international pharmaceutical company Novartis. Organ recipient Robert Waddell feels he has received "a fountain of youth," having been medication-free for the past three years.



## A future cure for heart failure

Roberto Bolli, MD, PhD, along with a research team at UofL's Institute for Molecular Cardiology, has found that adult cardiac stem cells may aid in regenerating heart tissue and treating heart disease. Besides stunning the medical community, these findings have given patients like Mike Jones a second chance at life.



## Great strides in spinal cord research

The collaborations of Scott R. Whittemore, MD, PhD, and Susan J. Harkema, MD, PhD, bring hope to sufferers of spinal cord injuries. Their research on the nervous system and epidural stimulation led to actionable rehabilitation, and their advances enabled former national champion baseball player Rob Summers to stand on his own two feet after a spinal cord injury paralyzed him below the neck.

## Russell Athletic Bowl fans provide aid to typhoon survivors

About 50 students, alumni and fans of the University of Louisville and University of Miami came together Dec. 28 in Orlando to pack more than 2,500 baggies with toiletries for typhoon victims in the Philippines. This volunteer effort marks the third time UofL has performed a service project in conjunction with postseason football or basketball games.



## UofL professor to receive prestigious Hind Rattan Award



University of Louisville professor Daya Singh Sandhu has been selected to receive the prestigious 2014 Hind Rattan Award in New Delhi, India. The award, named "Jewel of India" in English, recognizes Sandhu's lifelong work to reduce suicides by removing the stigma associated with seeking mental health services. A committee, including Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, selects non-resident Indians to receive this honor.