



A Message from University of Kentucky
PRESIDENT ELI CAPILOUTO

Campus Community,

What do we value at the University of Kentucky?

Only a few weeks into an academic year, I am repeatedly reminded how that question can take shape and be expressed on a college campus. Diverse perspectives about the world we share are expressed every day on the campus we share – as students, staff, faculty, and visitors alike.

The beauty of a college campus like ours – a flagship campus that is large, diverse, chaotic, agitated, and loud – is that we are one of the few places where so many deep and divergent perspectives can come together at the same time and in the same space, guided by an intentional and essential spirit of respect for one another.

We aspire to be a place where everyone can fully engage and succeed, feeling valued and safe. Our Board of Trustees has made our University's values clear, unequivocally stating that we are a community where everyone belongs. We do not have to agree with each other, but we will find space for each other; we can strenuously disagree, without being dismissive or violently disagreeable.

Last month, thousands of members of our community gathered to hear comedian and author Trevor Noah as he talked about issues of race and the role of education. And yesterday, preachers exercised their right to free speech outside White Hall Classroom Building, surrounded at times by more than 100 students, who displayed the full and deep array of dividing lines that exist on our campus around identity and race, politics and ideology, faith and perspective, gender and sexual orientation. The fact that often divergent views exist in such close proximity to one another represents who we are; and makes us stronger.

Let us honor the uniqueness of this place, maintaining a campus of belonging for everyone. This is our credo, from the prospective student and her family to the staff and faculty who conduct their essential work in classrooms and lab spaces to administrative offices and board rooms where decisions are made and policies are set.

That sense of community – where everyone belongs and where everyone's voice and contribution matters – is what we value.

It is the community we are committed to building together.

Eli Capilouto
President