

SEPTEMBER

# COLLEGE MONTHLY



Yesterday, President Capilouto announced an expansion of his administrative team. Among many changes and additions, I have been asked to serve as vice president for land-grant engagement. This new position is part-time, so I will remain as dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment reporting to the Provost.

Creating a position to better serve UK's land-grant mission is a significant and much-appreciated recognition by President Capilouto of the unique statewide role of our college. As vice president, I will advocate and serve as a key advisor to the president for the teaching, research and extension missions across the Commonwealth with a rich community of external partners and stakeholders.

This opportunity represents an acknowledgement of the importance of agriculture, forestry, food and community systems and of the college's work on behalf of Kentucky. It is also an opportunity for us

to aspire to even greater service.

I am excited to begin this new role and look forward to championing engagement and outreach in new ways and with new partners for the college and university.

## Supporting our students

As a land-grant institution, the values of learning, discovery and engagement are intertwined in all that we do. The hallmark of all our work is the integration of these values in the education of thousands of students each year.

For many students, a college education would not be possible without the generosity of alumni, friends, faculty and other partners. Thanks to this generosity, the college has one of the largest scholarship programs at the University of Kentucky.

This year, financial situations for many of our students and their families has changed because of the ongoing pandemic. Providing support for them through scholarships and helping them to navigate financial aid has been critical to many returning to campus. But we

have many unmet needs.

Overall, we were able to award scholarships to about 40% of students, meaning 60% did not receive an award. Financial burden is one of – if not the – main reasons students drop out of school. Last year, 18% of CAFE continuing student applications were from underrepresented minorities. Of that 18%, 33% were awarded one or more scholarships.

Scholarships were incredibly competitive this year, and with the economic downturn, competition will only increase as more students apply. Compounding the issue is that less funding is available for students. Many scholarships also have specific donor requirements. Our students are incredibly deserving and grateful for these scholarships. Some things we hear from our recipients are:

“Being an out of state student puts a very heavy financial burden on my family and this scholarship has helped relieve some of that stress.”

“This scholarship makes it possible for me to focus on my academic goals and work less.”

“With this scholarship, I am afforded the ability to pay the remaining balance of my tuition and purchase the books required for classes this year.”

The family atmosphere of our college is never more evident than when students are in need. When a student was on the brink of dropping out because their family ran into unexpected financial difficulties, a faculty member and their family stepped in with one-time help. This was a first-generation underrepresented minority student who displayed huge promise and was able to continue their studies and graduate with honors. Scholarships also contributed to the student’s ability to complete their degree.

Not everyone has the wherewithal to do what this faculty member did. But helping students even in small ways – by pointing them to financial aid resources, scholarship opportunities, paid internships and more – are things we can all do.

Additionally, on September 16, we can consider participating in One Day for UK. For 24 hours, alumni, friends, faculty, staff and fans are encouraged to support the college and to spread the word about us on social media. It is an opportunity to promote college pride and benefit students, extension, faculty, research, programs and initiatives. You can learn more about two of our philanthropic funds that will be highlighted [here](#) and [here](#).

Dean Nancy Cox

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# CULTIVATING INCLUSION SERIES

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
*Office of Diversity*

## Join the Office of Diversity for the ongoing Cultivating Inclusion Series

The Cultivating Inclusion Series serves to provide an informal, safe environment for faculty, staff and students to engage in conversations related to diversity and inclusion while fostering an appreciation of inclusivity within the college. This fall, there will be four sessions on the first Thursday of each month, September through December, from 12 to 1 p.m. The sessions are:

- **Inclusive Language**, September 3, 2020: Join the Office of Diversity and Quentin Tyler, Michigan State University associate dean and director for diversity, equity, and inclusion, as they discuss how you can incorporate strategies of inclusion through the use of language in your workspaces, classrooms and community.
- **Curating a Culture of Belonging: Safe Zone Training**, October 1, 2020: SafeZone Trainings are 90-minute workshops to equip individuals to be more aware and active allies. This training explores LGBTQ\* identities, strategies for supporting student experiences and exploring LGBTQ\* related campus and community resources. This training will be led by the Office of LGBTQ\* Resources and will conclude at 1:30 p.m.
- **Stamped from the Beginning Book Discussion**, November 5, 2020: An open discussion regarding topics of race, racism, its influence on higher education, our communities and how we can champion change in the spaces we occupy. Do not forget to complete the short questionnaire at the end of your registration. The first 30 registrants will receive a complimentary book.
- **Moving from Kindness to Antiracist**, December 3, 2020: Join the Office of Diversity and Melissa Stein, associate professor, Gender & Women's Studies, as we navigate the conversation of antiracism and the implications it has on our College community.

[Register to attend this event](#)

## Extension transition update

Extension has continued to provide exceptional outreach to stakeholders during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while, like the rest of the university, weathering a recurring budget reduction. This reduction and the projected economic consequences of the pandemic are sobering. As a result, a very conservative approach is being undertaken to implement a hybrid restructure to begin to meet the intended goals of the administrative transition with existing funds.

The new plan will move forward with three regions and 24 areas as the model that meets the original goals. Each region includes eight areas. Initially, 12 area extension directors, each providing administrative leadership for two areas, will be hired. The positions have been posted. More information on dates for candidate virtual presentations with question and answer sessions with county staff and leaders will be available soon on the [Extension Transition website](#). More information about the hybrid transition, area maps and additional documents can also be found on the transition website.

In addition, a national search for a permanent agriculture and natural resources assistant director will begin soon. The posting is planned for this month, with the search to begin in mid-fall.

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## Join the college mentor program

The College [Mentor Program](#) helps support new staff as they become acclimated to their position. The length of the program is six months, during which the mentor receives support through a web-based orientation, monthly newsletters and weekly help tips. We would like to hear from you. Do you know someone that is a good role model? Please consider submitting a Mentor Nomination. The nomination process is quick and easy. Click [here](#) to submit a nomination.



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## New relief fund, CRISIS fund now available

UK employees who are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 have a choice between two different funds offering assistance. Employees may also now contribute to these funds. Learn more [here](#).

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# Roundup

## Celebrate 2020 Roundup at home

The 46th annual Roundup will look much different than it has in years past. We wish we were able to gather under the big white tents for fun, food, and, of course, to cheer on the Cats at Kroger Field. Since we cannot be together in person though, we are dubbing this year's Roundup as "The one celebrated at home." We hope you will join us Saturday, Sept. 26 as we root on the Kentucky Wildcats to a big win against the Auburn Tigers at their season opener. Tag us in your social media posts by using #UKRoundupAtHome. Check out the college's Facebook page on September 25 for a special commemorative video celebrating Roundup's past.

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## Outstanding Staff Award Nominations

While the traditional staff appreciation day and outstanding staff awards program held in conjunction with Roundup will not take place this fall, the college plans to honor staff in a combination of virtual and in-person experiences on December 11. Take time now to nominate someone for an award. Nomination forms can be found [here](#). You can learn more about the awards and see past award winners [here](#).

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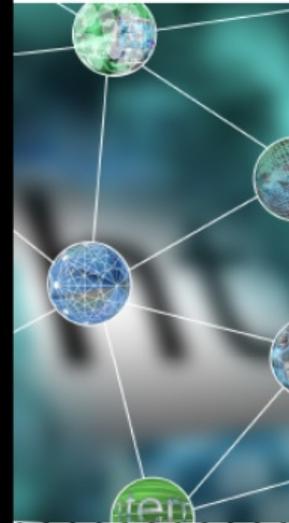
**KENTUCKY EXTENSION  
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION  
NETWORK**

**Fall Meeting**

**September 17, 2020  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT**



For more information contact:  
[antomia.farrell@uky.edu](mailto:antomia.farrell@uky.edu)



**Use the QR Code to Register Today!**

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## In the news

### Carrie Knott named UKREC director

Carrie Knott has been named managing director for the Research and Education Center in Princeton. Knott joined the faculty at the UKREC in 2013 as an extension grains crop agronomist and is an associate professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. Read more [here](#).



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## Ja'Mahl McDaniel to Lead UK MLK Center

UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment alumnus Ja'Mahl McDaniel will lead UK's Martin Luther King Center. McDaniel has served as interim director of the center since earlier this year. Prior to that, McDaniel had served as associate director of the center since 2018. Read more [here](#).



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## Cancer, COVID and the Kentucky Economy: How 'Sweet Annie' Could Make an Impact

With its wispy, feathery leaves, the *Artemisia annua* seedlings resemble the more lanky herbs you'd find in a backyard garden, like parsley or cilantro. Originating in southeast Asia, it has been used as a medicinal herb for centuries and is commonly brewed as a drink.

The plant, commonly known as Sweet Wormwood or even "Sweet Annie," biosynthesizes two potent malaria-fighting compounds. The popular malaria drug artesunate was developed from those compounds and is still used as a first-line treatment for the disease today. Now, researchers in Kentucky and across the world are hoping to discover if this plant also holds the key to treating not only several types of cancer, but the devastating disease that's swept across the globe for the past eight months: COVID-19.

Over the past three years, Patrick Perry and the KTDRC have honed the production method of this plant, taking care to keep it as close to the process for growing tobacco or hemp as possible. This would allow production to scale up quickly and efficiently should demand for the plant increase. And as the only state currently growing substantial quantities of *Artemisia annua*, it also means Kentucky could be poised to become the new epicenter for growing the plant worldwide. Read more [here](#).



## Virtual State Fair recap

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kentucky State Fair officials decided to limit the 2020 fair to the youth livestock and horse show participants only. So, to allow Kentuckians to enjoy some of the same demonstrations and activities they would usually see in the college's exhibit at AgLand, we took them virtual for the 11-day fair run. Missed it? All 11 demos can be found on the college's [YouTube channel](#).

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## Spotlight

### Bob Coleman

Associate Professor Extension Horse Specialist  
Department of Animal and Food Sciences

We asked Bob to share a little about his passions, his career path and what led him to us.

**Tell us about your background and what led you to your current role at UK?**

I grew up in Western Canada and worked in the feed industry before joining the Alberta Agriculture Horse Industry Branch as an extension horse specialist. During that time, I finished my PhD with a focus in equine nutrition. The position opened at UK and I was invited to apply. I have always enjoyed extension so having an opportunity to work at a land-grant school was great and I was going to get a chance to teach, which was something I had always wanted to do.



**What is your favorite thing about working in CAFE?**

There are so many people with such great expertise to get information to answer a question, develop a research collaboration or add to a course being taught to undergraduates. This readily available resource makes being part CAFE a great place to work.

**What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people?**

I think that I am Canadian is possibly something many don't know, but I have been doing equine extension for 40 years.

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PROTECT. RESPECT. DO YOUR PART.

# Don't forget your daily 4.0!

[go.uky.edu/ProtectRespect](https://go.uky.edu/ProtectRespect)



WEAR A MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS



PHYSICAL DISTANCE



DAILY SCREENING

## Calendar of Events

**September 3**

Cultivating Inclusion Series

**September 7**

Labor Day

**September 8**

Last day to drop a course

**September 16**

One Day for UK 2020

**September 17**

KY Extension Diversity + Inclusion Network  
Fall Meeting

**September 25**

Roundup at Home

**September 26**

UK v Auburn Season Opener

## Helpful Links

[Giving](#)

[College Weekly for Faculty & Staff](#)

[College Weekly for Students](#)

[The Ambassador](#)

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[Read: The Ambassador](#)

