



Presidential Conversation



Scholarships Work For UK And Kentucky

I often use this space to tout a project or program — to spotlight the people who make the University of Kentucky the special place that it is. In this issue, however, I use this platform to give voice to a different group of individuals — a group of individuals who are not currently members of the UK community.

For nearly 150 years, this university has provided quality education to generations of students from across the Commonwealth. Educating students was our earliest mission, and it remains the most profound way we can enhance the future of our state. In everything we do and say — from our Top 20 Business Plan to our conversations with external audiences — making sure UK remains accessible to the next generation of Kentuckians is our top priority.

As Kentucky's flagship, land-grant university, I believe it is incumbent on us to offer the finest education to every capable and promising student regardless of their financial situation. Considering the current financial climate facing potential students and their families, the financial pressures of attending college are even more trying.

That is why we have launched the President's Scholarship Initiative. Scholarships are the great equalizer, as they help level the playing field for our students regardless of their background or financial standing.

Simply put: Scholarships work for UK and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

For instance, a little over a year ago, I traveled to Muhlenberg County to create the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Scholarship program. Mr. Martin was a graduate of UK who wanted to provide scholarships to Muhlenberg County students enrolled in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

At that time, we had one student from Muhlenberg County enrolled in the Gatton College. This past fall, eight Muhlenberg County students enrolled in the college.

A few years ago, an alum from Adair County started a scholarship endowment for students from that county. He felt that students who received a UK education had the best hopes for changing Kentucky.

The year before he started that scholarship program, we had seven students enrolled from Adair County. Last year, we had 194 students from Adair County here at UK. Fourteen of those young people receive the Adair County Scholarship.

That shows you that scholarships often serve to not only impact those students who receive them, but entire communities. When students see their peers and friends succeeding at UK, they too know they can compete. That confidence has a ripple effect, as many more students and their families realize a shared dream of receiving a world-class education.

I hope you partner with me and our fellow alumni around the globe to provide students with the ultimate gift: The opportunity to receive a University of Kentucky education.

For more information about the President's Scholarship Initiative, please contact the UK Office of Development by calling 800-875-6272 or logging on to their Web site, www.uky.edu/Development

Sincerely,

Lee T. Todd Jr.
President

see blue.™
in everything we do.