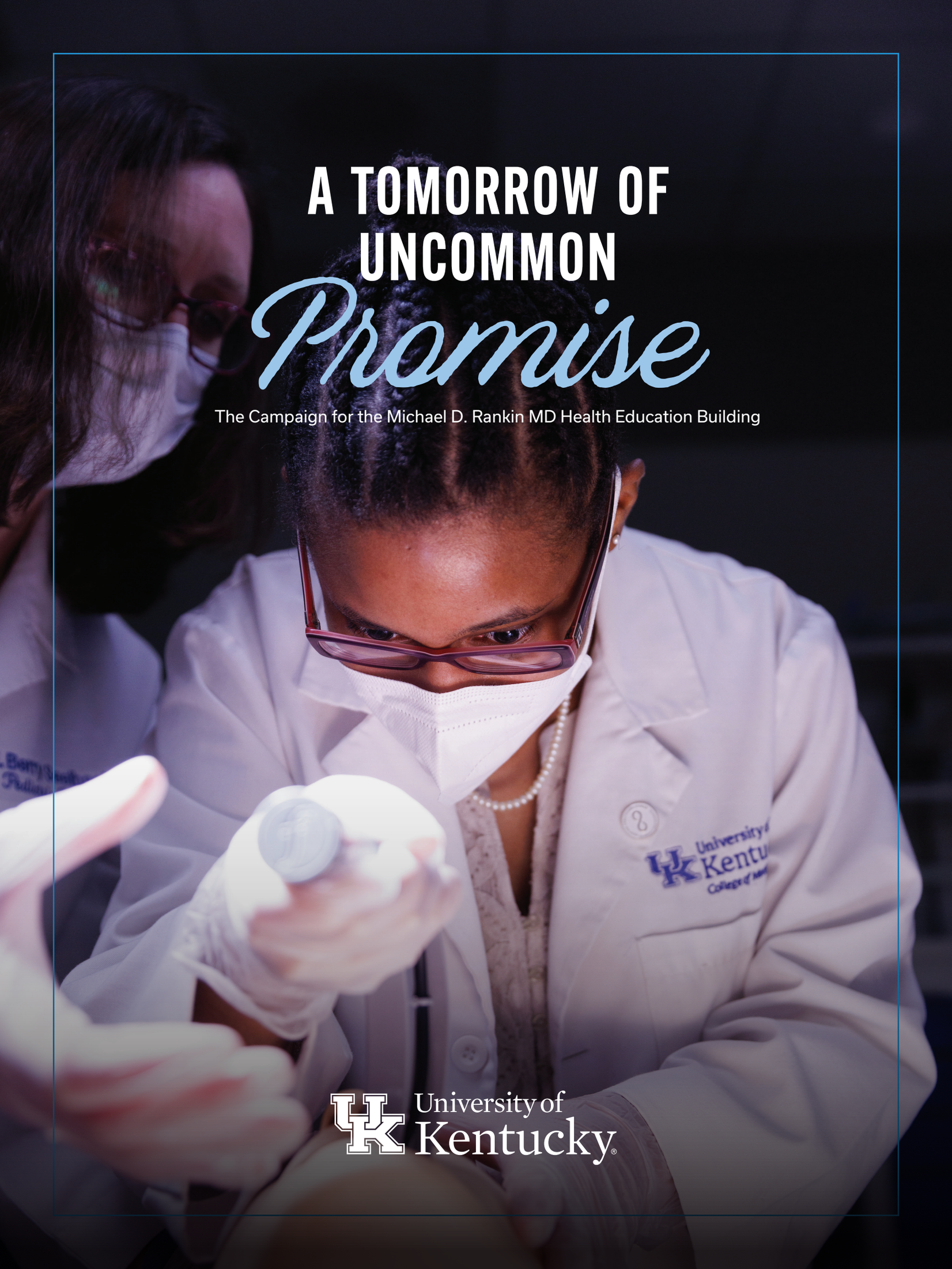


A TOMORROW OF UNCOMMON *Promise*

The Campaign for the Michael D. Rankin MD Health Education Building

University of Kentucky










health
or all y'all!


04:59

University of Kentucky



The University of Kentucky's impact on the Commonwealth is 160 years long and 120 counties wide. But we are always striving to do more and be more for the state we serve. Our next chapter is ready to be written, and we'd like you to help author it.

Our Board of Trustees has charged us with an audacious mission: to become the institution, working with partners, that does more than any other in the country to advance the health of the state it serves.

To do that, we must build a modern facility where we can educate more students who want to create a healthier Kentucky for all.

The new Michael D. Rankin MD Health Education Building at the University of Kentucky will mark a turning point in how we educate aspiring health care workers. By uniting the Colleges of Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health, along with the Center for Interprofessional and Community Health Education (CICHE) in one building, students will learn as a team. This facility will effectively address workforce readiness through the lens of health care by graduating greater numbers of better-prepared health care professionals who can solve problems together and develop strategies that reduce demand for costly medical care.

Working together, these four colleges will facilitate an intersection of professions with new perspectives in patient care and public health. I can count on one hand the number of similar projects in United States higher education today.

But we're not doing it for acclaim or accolades. We're doing it because it's the right thing to do – for our students, and for Kentucky.

As Kentucky's university, we have the distinctive capacity – and singular opportunity – to advance our state and all those we serve. You can help us create a Commonwealth with a reputation for innovation in health care and a workforce full of purpose.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto
President
University of Kentucky

IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH GOOGLING TO **UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES** THAT WE FACE.

Kentucky needs health care more than just about any state in the country. Of the 10 most common chronic diseases in the United States, Kentucky ranks at or near the top in nine of them. And the March of Dimes Report Card gives Kentucky an "F," reflecting high rates of preterm birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality.

Even as we are urgently in need of more people trained to provide health services, the health care workforce is shrinking. As of July 2024, 107 of Kentucky's 120 counties (89%) are health care deserts with only one provider for at least 3,500 citizens per county.

BUT.

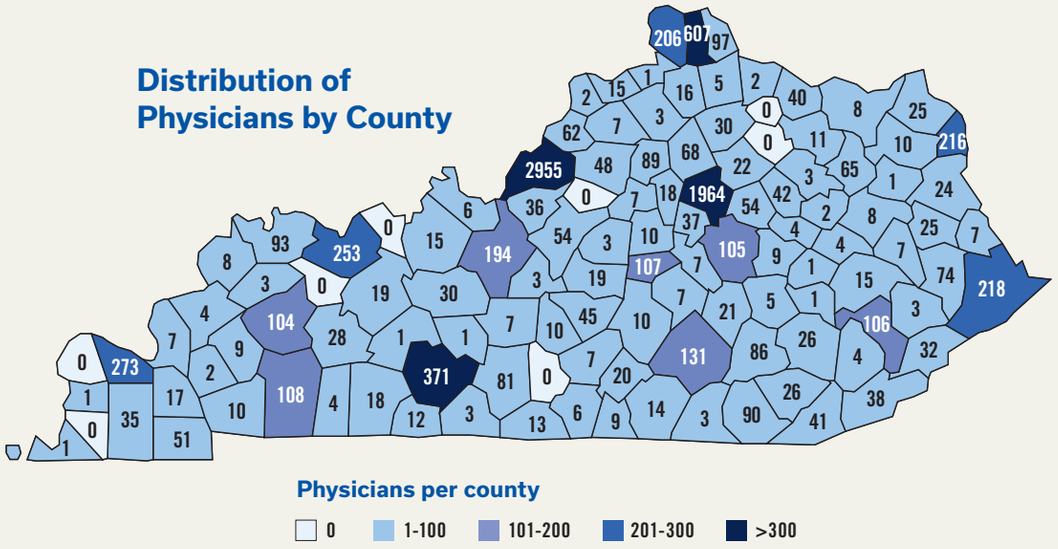
We are also a Commonwealth with a reputation for grace and grit and an inclination for invention that transforms how the world works — from the steamboat to the traffic signal. The University of Kentucky's mission embraces this spirit, and our work has also yielded innovative solutions to thorny problems.

As the University of, for, and with Kentucky, who other than UK is better suited to tackle this head-on?

In a world where medicine is increasingly complex and health increasingly elusive, the hope of a healthier, wealthier Kentucky is unlikely to be realized without a transformation in how we educate a new generation of health professionals.

Our vision is to build **a health campus that brings four health-related colleges and CICHE together in one building to learn, to collaborate and to solve the health problems that impede economic growth and personal prosperity.** It will be a place from which larger numbers of students will graduate thinking of health and medicine in different ways, with the skills to innovate how we create a healthier, more work-ready Kentucky.





WE WILL EXPAND KENTUCKY'S WORKFORCE

The economically stifling effect of illness in Kentucky is reflected in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) statistics on wellness. Twenty-four percent of Kentuckians experience between one and 14 days of poor physical health each month, and nearly 16% report poor physical health more than 14 days each month. Self-reported poor mental health follows a similar trend (1-13 days: 20.9%; 14+ days: 16.1%).

If people are sick, they can't work. Workforce participation in Kentucky currently hovers around 56%, ranking us 46th out of 50 states. Diabetes alone is believed to reduce employment in Kentucky by 15,700 workers. This impedes economic growth and discourages investment.

But as of today, there are too few professional caregivers to address this pressing need.

According to the Kentucky Physician Report 2022, we are woefully short of physicians: there are 35 counties with five or fewer practicing physicians, and eight Kentucky counties have no physicians at all.

But this story is not just about physicians. There are worrisome signs of a widening gap in health care staffing across all disciplines nationwide – from audiologists to physical therapists to nurses.

That trend is similar here at home. The Kentucky Hospital Association reported a total of nearly 13,000 job vacancies at the end of 2022 – a workforce vacancy of 15% statewide. The Kentucky Future Skills Report estimates that we will be short more than 20,000 qualified health care workers by 2027.

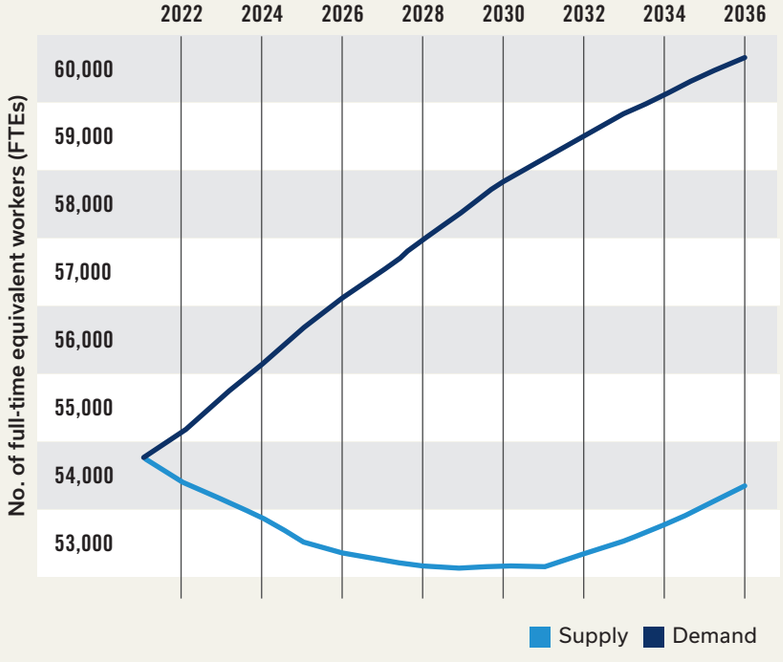
To maintain a healthy, work-ready populace, we must increase the ranks of health care practitioners. As of today, however, UK's Colleges of Health Sciences, Medicine, Nursing and Public Health simply do not have the right type or amount of space to grow in each of their disciplines, let alone add new disciplines that address health care's constant evolution.

Every year, we turn away hundreds of qualified applicants who dream of becoming a physician, a nurse, a physician's assistant – all because we lack the resources and modern facilities to train them.

The new Michael D. Rankin MD Health Education Building will directly address this by providing space for more than 1,200 additional students across four colleges (Health Sciences +30%, Medicine +44%, Nursing +100%, Public Health +100%).

Because most of our graduates historically remain in Kentucky to practice their craft and care for our citizens, we are building a workforce of Kentuckians for Kentuckians – serving both rural and urban communities across the state.

The Unmet Need for Health Care Services in the U.S.



Source: US Health Services and Resources Administration, https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections


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WE WILL DEVELOP A BETTER-PREPARED HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

But **more** isn't enough; we also need **better**.

Health care is a team sport. Nurses, physicians and other health disciplines, both inside the hospital and out in the community, work together to heal the sick – and sometimes prevent sickness altogether. Yet the nationwide status quo is to educate each profession almost exclusively in silos.

Health problems can't be solved one discipline at a time. Volumes of research show that patient outcomes, quality of care, cost of care, and burnout improve when disciplines work together toward a shared goal: getting (and keeping) people well.

That's why the Michael D. Rankin MD Health Education Building embraces a systems-oriented perspective that develops a health care workforce fluent in collaboration and innovation from day one.

How?

By building spaces where students from all four colleges learn side-by-side in shared spaces, exploring the intricacies of human disease, acquiring clinical skills, understanding how to work together effectively with patients and each other, and developing interprofessional competence that improves care delivery and reduces health care costs.

The building's 100-year design promotes team-building and problem solving, with the flexibility to accommodate more programs, new technology, and collaborative degrees and certificates that address emerging trends in science and public health.

And while UK has embraced interprofessional learning since the 1970s – long before it was commonplace – more square footage means that we can vastly grow the number and frequency of simulations and training using standardized patients. We can also include students from other colleges (e.g., pharmacy and social work) who are important contributors to the team in real life.

The building has also been designed with an eye toward the needs of our regional medical education campuses in Morehead, Bowling Green and Northern Kentucky. The technology and infrastructure will optimize interaction among the four sites with room to grow to new sites if necessary.

We need to graduate highly skilled people who are as innovative as the health care they are expected to deliver. This novel learning paradigm will create a health care workforce trained to cultivate new ideas about treating the sick, promoting individual and population health and delivering cost-effective preventive services.

WE WILL FIND SOLUTIONS THAT IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS



This Commonwealth is renowned for its culture of mutual support, and for more than 160 years the University of Kentucky has been living that culture: we take to heart our responsibility to improve how Kentuckians live, work and play.

If we want to expand the proportion of the Kentucky population that remains in good health for their lifetimes, we will need to train people to be comfortable working in interprofessional teams and at the intersection of health care and society. We are propelling the Commonwealth toward that future with what is arguably the most consequential health project in the next 50 years.

But this is about more than a building. It is a wellspring of hope for Kentuckians who live in health care deserts. It is an opportunity to build a health care infrastructure that lifts more people into health and wealth. It is something that will make an impact long beyond the days that our footprints mark this earth.

Your philanthropic partnership would be the soundest economic investment you can make in Kentucky's interests – building a workforce armed with the tools to be innovative and prosperous, creating a support system that ensures healthier communities well into the future.

Life is short, and the stakes are high. The Commonwealth has called on us before to help solve some of the most difficult issues facing our people. We are calling on you to join us and be a powerful voice of hope for Kentucky.

University of Kentucky®







Promise

University of Kentucky