



ANNUAL REPORT

20
25



ABOUT

OneUK

The University of Kentucky strives to work with partners across the state who share the mission of advancing the Commonwealth by improving the lives of Kentuckians. **OneUK, a strategic collaboration between UK and leading community businesses, plays an integral role in helping the university fulfill this mission by fostering long-term, holistic partnerships that drive innovation, talent development and economic growth in Kentucky.** As such, OneUK is an extension – and serves in support – of the Advancing Together Kentucky Network. The network seeks to work closely with partners throughout Kentucky to advance the state's overall health – the treatment and prevention of disease, the development of the workforce and strengthening our educational system.

Specifically, OneUK seeks to deepen business engagement across all areas of UK, creating opportunities for talent development, innovation and strategic support. Kentucky's economy continues to grow and UK and its partners are uniquely positioned to meet the state's workforce needs in response to that growth.

By aligning UK's educational, research and community resources with industry leaders, OneUK supports Kentucky's economic growth while offering companies access to world-class talent, cutting-edge research and a thriving collaborative ecosystem. Together, UK and its partners are expanding opportunities to advance Kentucky and the health and welfare of its citizens.

UK OBJECTIVES

- 1** Dedicate resources for coordinated, holistic engagement experiences
- 2** Invest in partnerships with mutual interests and high potential for growing together
- 3** Promote shared values with UK-PURPOSE, the strategic plan and land-grant mission
- 4** Celebrate and learn together

PARTNER OBJECTIVES

- 1** Access to UK student and alumni talent and play a role in prioritizing workforce needs
- 2** Access to research outcomes that make a positive impact on partner businesses
- 3** Early notification / access to new industry-university shared spaces, labs and events
- 4** Recognition for high-performing partnerships and related gifts
- 5** Streamline communication and support

The **VISION**

To provide dedicated resources that foster comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships and deepen relationships with community collaborators, driving talent development and innovation that advance Kentucky.

The **NETWORK**



The APPROACH

HOLISTIC AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



OneUK aims to expand the university's business partnerships in both depth and breadth through a holistic approach to engagement. An ideal partner collaborates with the university across multiple areas, including:

Talent: workforce development initiatives

Innovation: research and development opportunities

Support: philanthropy and community development

OneUK encourages partnerships with a diverse range of colleges, from fine arts to engineering, fostering collaboration across disciplines.

OneUK partners have committed to developing a long-term relationship with UK, progressing through stages of engagement: from initial collaboration to alignment and, ultimately, a strategic partnership.

The PROCESS



OneUK team meets with new partners to understand needs and assess areas of opportunities

01



OneUK team consults with its network of college liaisons to best match university resources with the partners

02



OneUK team and partners draft an engagement plan outlining a mutually beneficial pathway toward strategic partnership

03



OneUK team and new partners commit dedicated resources to support continuous communication and success as plan is executed

04



OneUK partner engagement plans are updated quarterly to measure progress/ mutual growth and provide an opportunity to assess new interests

05

COHORT 1

OneUK announced its **innuagraual cohort** at the State of the EDC in **December 2023**.



Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH), the health care system of Appalachia and ranked as one of the Top 10 Employers in Kentucky by Forbes Magazine, is a not-for-profit health system operating 14 hospitals as well as home health agencies, home medical equipment stores and retail pharmacies.

Fischer Homes is a home builder in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Georgia and Missouri. Recognized by Builder Magazine as the nation's 30th largest builder, Fischer Homes is one of the largest and most reputable new home builders in the Midwestern and Southeastern states.



Valvoline™ Global Operations is a worldwide leader in automotive and industrial solutions, creating future-ready products and best-in-class services for partners around the globe. Established in 1866, they introduced the world's first branded motor oil, claiming their position as The Original Motor Oil.

COHORT 2

The second cohort of OneUK was announced at the **UK vs. Murray State football game** in November 2024.



Bullard is a fifth-generation family-owned business delivering innovation that inspires safety across the globe, headquartered in Kentucky. Bullard has a rich history of solving customer problems in innovative ways, enabling these customers to have long, healthy and productive lives.

Catalent is the global leader in enabling pharma, biotech and consumer health partners to optimize product development, launch and full life-cycle supply for patients around the world. Catalent's flagship U.S. manufacturing location is in Winchester, Kentucky.



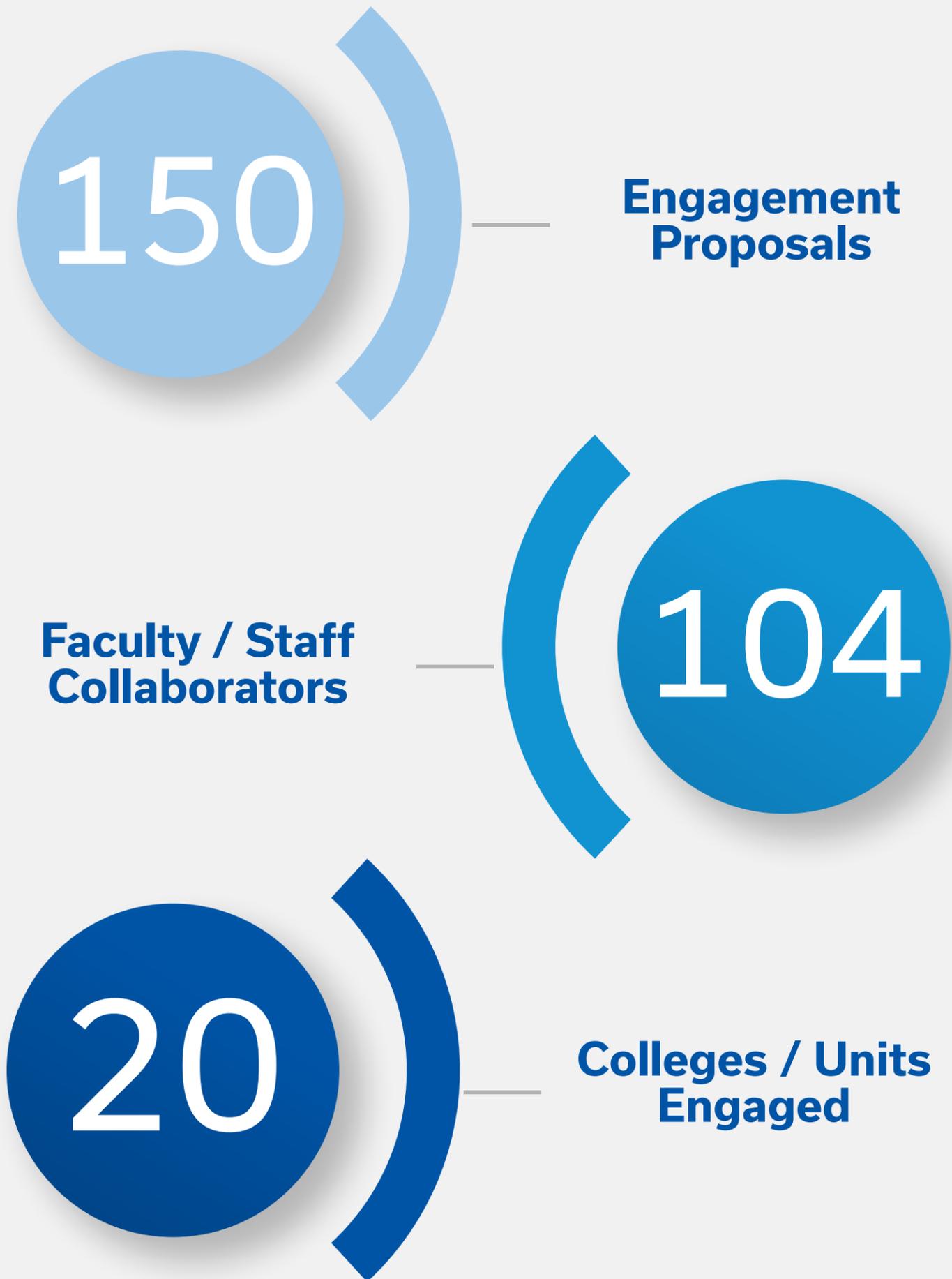
Fidelity Investment's mission is to strengthen the financial well-being of individuals across the nation and help them feel confident in their most important financial goals. employers, wealth management firms and institutions. With more than 76,000 associates working to meet the needs of their customers, Fidelity's global presence spans 11 countries.

2025 ENGAGEMENTS

Here are the ways the partners engaged with UK
throughout the past year.



The **NUMBERS**





BULLARD DONATES HARD HATS TO SUPPORT UK ENTERTAINMENT TECHNICIANS

Bullard, a OneUK partner and Kentucky-based manufacturer of personal protective equipment, has donated Type 2 hard hats to University of Kentucky Fine Arts entertainment technicians, providing students with enhanced safety equipment while creating an opportunity for industry feedback. The donation supports students who work behind the scenes on performances and events, where overhead hazards and technical rigging are common but high-quality safety equipment is not always standard in the entertainment industry.

"We were excited to support the University of Kentucky's entertainment technicians because safety and performance matter just as much behind the scenes as they do on any jobsite," Carlos Torres, Global Product Manager at Bullard said. "These students are gaining hands-on experience in real working environments, and their feedback is incredibly valuable as we continue to design head protection that prioritizes safety, comfort, functionality, and real-world use. We're proud to partner with the University of Kentucky and look forward to learning from the next generation of industry professionals."

Bullard is widely recognized as the inventor of the modern hard hat and has spent more than a century developing protective equipment for workers in high-risk environments. The company designs and manufactures safety solutions used across industries including construction, manufacturing, and emergency response.

In addition to improving on-the-job safety, the partnership allows entertainment technicians to test the hard hats in real-world conditions and share feedback with Bullard. That insight may help inform future product development for an industry that often operates with limited investment in protective gear.

"This Bullard collaboration has provided vital PPE for the students operating in the University of Kentucky's Department of Theatre & Dance when working on stage with overhead hazards," Zak Stribling Production Manager & Technical Director for UK's College of Fine Arts said. "With that equipment in-hand students are being trained in real-time as to when and why hard hat PPE is needed and required, enabling them to go forward in their professional pursuits expecting and practicing proper PPE usage. With Bullard technology as the standard, students are actively learning the differences between basic and quality head protection, in terms of both comfort and levels of protection, furthering their expectations for jobsite safety in theatre. This positive interaction with Bullard in higher education actively changes the culture and professional standards for future professionals by raising the standards and expectations for safe practice."

This collaboration was made through OneUK, a University of Kentucky initiative that connects the university with private-sector partners to strengthen workforce development, research collaboration, and student learning opportunities. OneUK partners work alongside faculty and staff to address real-world challenges while preparing students for careers across a range of industries.

LOCKHEED MARTIN CELEBRATES NEW ENGINEERING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT COLDSTREAM RESEARCH CAMPUS

Mayor Linda Gorton joined local officials and representatives from Lockheed Martin, a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery, as the company celebrated the grand opening of a new facility on the University of Kentucky's Coldstream Research Campus, adding up to 70 full-time jobs to the community. The project was supported by Commerce Lexington Inc., which continues to play a key role in bringing together business, education, and community leaders to strengthen Central Kentucky's economy.

"We are thankful for Lockheed Martin's commitment to being a strong corporate partner, and to increasing job opportunities in Lexington," Mayor Linda Gorton said. "Lexington is a great place to grow a business, thanks to our strong, resilient workforce."

The defense sector's growing demand for innovative engineering and manufacturing solutions has led to the establishment of Lockheed Martin's new facility, which will provide critical engineering support of transformative technologies and help enable its commitment to deliver 21st Century Security Solutions. As a long-time partner to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Lockheed Martin has more than 1,500 employees in the state, working to meet the needs of global security customers, and to support their critical missions around the world. With over 15 years of collaboration, Lockheed Martin and Central Kentucky have together enabled some of the nation's most important missions across air, land, space, and sea.

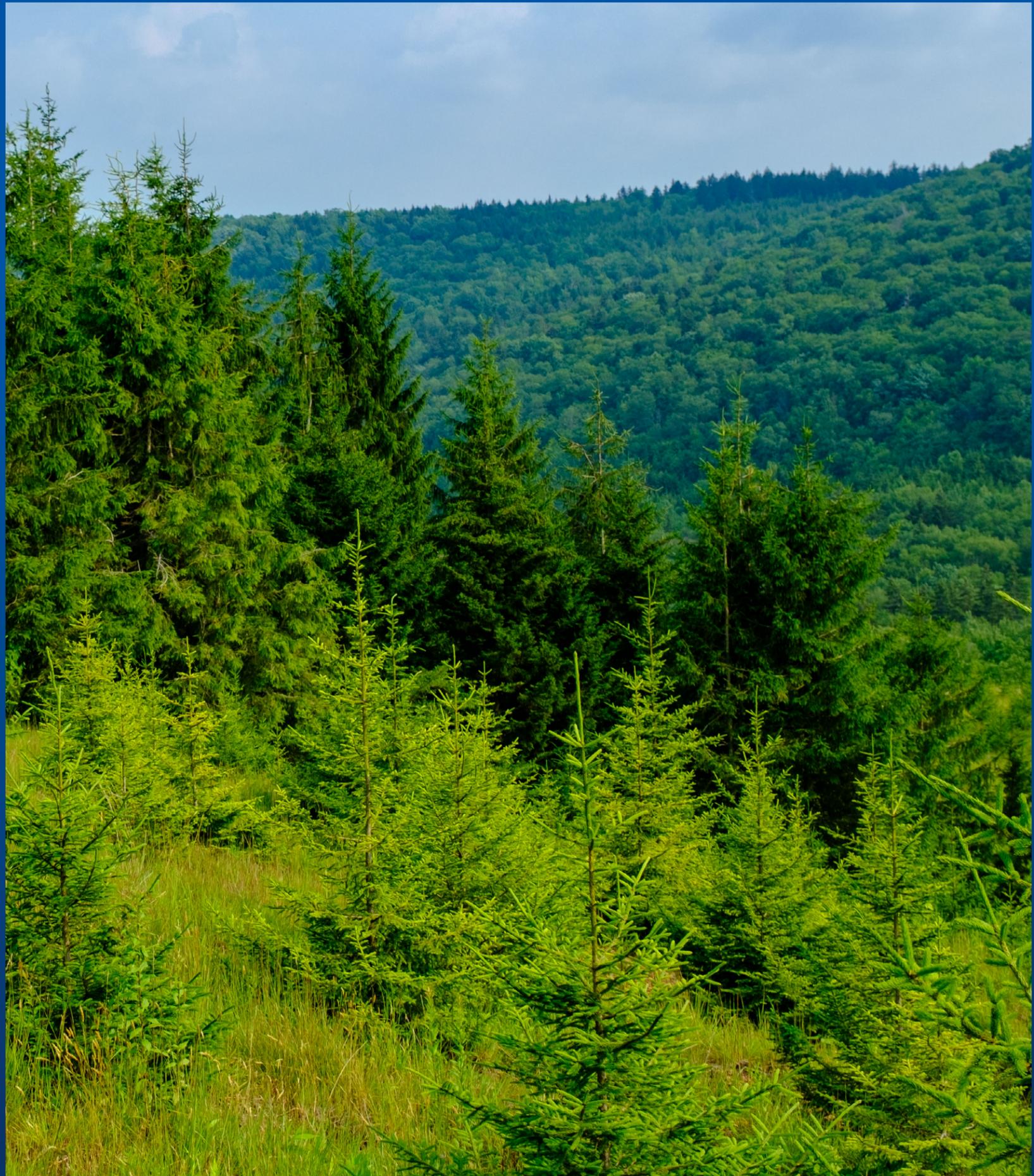
"We are excited to expand our presence in Lexington and create new job opportunities for the local community," said Vic Torla, Vice President of Lockheed Martin Lexington Programs. "This new facility will enable us to tap into the region's talented workforce and further enhance our ability to deliver cutting-edge solutions to our customers across the globe."

The new facility comes after Lockheed Martin and the University of Kentucky announced in April a partnership through UK Innovate, to leverage cutting-edge expertise to drive innovation in advancing engineering, materials, energy and manufacturing technology.

"At the University of Kentucky, we believe strongly that our Commonwealth's future will be built by the innovators we educate, the industries we support and the partnerships we forge. This collaboration with Lockheed Martin is a powerful example of how our university is leading on all three fronts," said UK President Eli Capilouto.

"The recently established partnership between Lockheed Martin and University of Kentucky is a leading example that will help grow the regional workforce," said Commerce Lexington President and CEO, Bob Quick. "Commerce Lexington plays a vital role in connecting education and business to encourage meaningful relationships, share essential resources, and build a strong talent pipeline. We appreciate the company's investment and confidence in the Greater Lexington area, and we look forward to working with its team in the future."





TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INVESTS IN KENTUCKY'S FUTURE THROUGH SUPPORT OF ACTION PROGRAM

OneUK partner Turner Construction Company is investing in the future of healthcare in Appalachian Kentucky through its support of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center's Appalachian Career Training in Oncology (ACTION) Program.

Turner Construction Company is one of the largest and most respected construction management firms in the United States, with a global presence and a strong footprint across Kentucky. Known for delivering complex, high-impact projects across healthcare, education, commercial, and civic sectors, Turner brings deep expertise in building the infrastructure that supports thriving communities. The company's commitment to safety, innovation, sustainability, and community partnership extends beyond the jobsite — reflected in its ongoing investment in workforce development and educational initiatives across the Commonwealth.

Through its support of ACTION, Turner is helping expand opportunities for students from Appalachian Kentucky to pursue careers in cancer research, healthcare, and related biomedical fields. The two-year program provides high school and undergraduate students with mentored research experiences, cancer education and career development training, and hands-on community outreach opportunities.

Since 2016, ACTION has engaged 157 students from 40 Appalachian Kentucky counties. The program addresses significant health disparities in a region that faces some of the highest cancer incidence and mortality rates in the nation. By equipping students with education, mentorship, and exposure to healthcare careers, ACTION aims to build a pipeline of professionals committed to serving the communities most affected by these challenges.

The program's outcomes are already notable. Of the 77 undergraduate alumni, 44 have matriculated to medical school, with 15 now in residency programs. Others have gone on to pharmacy, physician assistant, and doctoral programs in cancer biology — many with the goal of returning to practice in Kentucky.

Turner's partnership in this effort reflects the broader mission of OneUK: aligning business, education, and community leaders to strengthen Kentucky's workforce and address critical needs across the state. By supporting programs like ACTION, Turner Construction Company is helping build not only facilities, but also futures — investing in the next generation of healthcare leaders who will serve Appalachian Kentucky for years to come.

VALVOLINE GLOBAL AND LAUNCH BLUE COLLABORATE ON SPRING 2025 INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION ACCELERATOR

Launch Blue is pleased to announce its collaboration with OneUK and Valvoline Global for the Spring 2025 Industry Transformation Accelerator. As a worldwide leader in automotive and industrial solutions, Valvoline Global brings technical expertise and industry knowledge to Launch Blue's nationally recognized accelerator program to provide startup founders with the tools to make an impact in real-world applications.

"At Valvoline Global, innovation is at the core of everything we do," said Valvoline Global Chief Technical Officer Roger England, Ph.D. "For nearly 160 years, we have led the industry in developing advanced solutions that drive performance and efficiency. Engaging with early-stage startups through the Industry Transformation Accelerator allows us to share our expertise while supporting the next wave of industry changemakers. We are excited to collaborate with founders who are tackling real-world challenges and shaping the future of mobility and industrial solutions."

"Valvoline Global's dedication to solving global issues through innovation makes them an invaluable contributor for the Industry Transformation Accelerator," said Launch Blue Executive Director Laura Halligan. "Having seasoned corporate innovation leaders willing to be hands-on with founders through our program gives startups a competitive edge to make real change."

The theme of the Spring 2025 Cohort is circular economy, materials and sustainability. Through the virtual seven-week program, startup founders will develop strategies for pilot projects, dilutive and nondilutive funding and technology adoption — culminating in a pitch to Launch Blue's corporate innovation network.

In addition to Valvoline Global and OneUK, Launch Blue partners with UK Innovate's Innovation Connect and Invest Blue to put on its Industry Transformation Accelerator.

"Collaborating with Valvoline Global through the Launch Blue Industry Transformation Accelerator exemplifies the type of translational innovation opportunities we aspire to develop with and for our OneUK partners," said Landon Borders, executive director of Innovation Connect and OneUK core team member.

Launch Blue, has published a case study showcasing its collaboration with OneUK member Valvoline Global Operations on the Industry Transformation Accelerator.

The case study, available [here](#), highlights the inception of the accelerator, challenge areas explored, participating startups and program results.





FISCHER HOMES RETURNS TO CAMPUS FOR THIRD 'CAREER BUILDER DAY'

"I was a psychology major, and Fischer Homes fully trained me with everything I needed to work in sales with the company," shared Mehryn Toole, standing at the front of a class of students at the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

That moment was part of Fischer Homes' third Career Builder Day with OneUK, a program that brings the company directly into the student experience. While representatives visited several groups on campus, one faculty member welcomed Fischer Homes into two of their courses: FIN 360 - Principles of Real Estate and FIN 464 - Real Estate Finance and Investments.

For Shaun Sanders with the Gatton College of Business and Economics, who teaches both courses, the opportunity to host an industry partner twice in one day was intentional.

"The [classroom] visit grew out of broader conversations with the Economic Development Collaborative / OneUK team regarding the value of maintaining a strong relationship between Fischer Homes and the University, particularly with the Business College as we build and expand our Gatton Center for Real Estate," Sanders said.

In Principles of Real Estate, students are given an overview of the basic concepts and principles of real estate in the private and public sectors. In Real Estate Finance and Investments, students are introduced to real estate investment and financing, with a focus on analyzing the risk, return, and value of residential and commercial properties.

"Setting aside class time for Fischer Homes to speak with my students was a priority because their work aligns directly with the themes we cover in this course," Sanders said. "Beyond course content, it was valuable for students to learn about potential career pathways, skills that employers are seeking, and opportunities they might pursue after graduation. Finally, the visit strengthened ties between the university and the broader community, showing students the importance of engaging with organizations outside the classroom."

Beyond the classroom, Career Builder Day extended into the Cats Den at the Gatton Student Center, where Fischer Homes hosted a networking reception. Open to all majors, the event allowed students to meet company representatives in a casual setting, practice networking skills, and explore career opportunities before the upcoming All-Majors Career Fair.

"Our recent Career Builder Day with OneUK partner Fischer Homes was a win-win for all involved," Audrey Baricovich, program coordinator for ASTeCC and the Office of Business Engagement, said. "Students gained direct access to industry professionals to learn about career and co-op opportunities, while faculty and staff from five colleges received insights to better align academic efforts with industry needs. At the same time, Fischer Homes was able to continue building relationships on campus, identifying top talent early, and sharing the skills they value in future hires. It was a wonderful day of building meaningful connections between our campus community and Fischer Homes, and we're excited to continue growing this partnership."

At the heart of Career Builder Day is OneUK, the University of Kentucky's strategic collaboration program with leading businesses, designed to foster long-term, holistic partnerships that drive innovation, talent development, and economic growth in the Commonwealth.

COHORT 3

The second cohort of OneUK was announced at the **UK vs. Tennessee Tech football game** in November 2025. Lockheed Martin and Turner Construction will begin **engagement plan implementation in 2026**.

LOCKHEED MARTIN 

Lockheed Martin is a global defense technology company driving innovation and advancing scientific discovery. With two locations in Lexington, Kentucky, the company's all-domain mission solutions and 21st Century Security vision accelerate the delivery of transformative technologies.

Turner is a North American-based, international construction services company and a leading builder in diverse market segments. The company has earned recognition for undertaking large and complex projects, fostering innovation, embracing emerging technologies, and making a difference for its clients, employees, and community.

Turner
Construction Company



Representatives from OneUK companies, Allison Keeler (Fischer Homes), Tom Woods (Fidelity Investments), Bruce White (Fidelity Investments), Liza Gossett (Bullard), Chris Rosenbaum (Catalent), Teagan Avery (Bullard), Ashley Chatham (VGO), Samuel Elliott (Lockheed Martin), Robert Bockrath (Lockheed Martin) and OneUK core team members Jessica Koenigsknecht-Talboo and Landon Borders on the field during the UK vs. Tennessee Tech football game in November 2025.

2026

2026

JANUARY - MARCH

Cohort 3 partners, OneUK core team and College Liaisons work together to create engagement plans



JAN 26 - DEC 26

Cohort 1 & 2 engagement plan implementation



APR 26 - DEC 26

Cohort 3 engagement plan implementation



APR 26 - OCT 26

Meet with and present OneUK to Cohort 4 prospects

NOV 26

Announce and celebrate OneUK Cohort 4

OneUK

CORE TEAM

OneUK is carried out by a small, cross-functional team representing various industry-facing UK units.

AUDREY BARICOVICH

ASTeCC AND THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

LANDON BORDERS

UK INNOVATION CONNECT

ASHLEY CASTORENA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE

MELODY FLOWERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REAL ESTATE

ERIK JARVIS

PARTNERSHIPS

KIM KLUEMPER

OFFICE OF BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

JESSICA KOENIGSKNECHT-TALBOO

UK PHILANTHROPY

TORI SUMMEY

STUCKERT CAREER CENTER

COLLEGE / UNIT

LIAISONS

The college/unit liaisons serve as a vital bridge between their college and OneUK. They collaborate with the OneUK core team to develop engagement plans that address partner needs, fostering mutually beneficial partnerships.

LESLEY OLIVER

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

KIM HENKEN

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

LOGAN SMART

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RUDY BUCHHEIT

PIGMAN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

CHRISTIA BROWN

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MEGAN SIZEMORE

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

BROOKE NOWICKI

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

RONALD ZIMMER

MARTIN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

NATHAN RUDDER

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

KENNETH TYLER

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

PAULA SANDFORD

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

BRAD PATRICK

GATTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

TAMIKA TOMPOULIDIS

LEWIS HONORS COLLEGE

BRIAN NOEHREN

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

DOUGLAS LONG

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

RAVYN LADENBURGER

UK PHILANTHROPY

CRAIG MARTIN

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

JESSICA RUKAVINA

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

KATHLEEN MONTGOMERY

PATTERSON SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE

MEAGAN LEDERMAN

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

LINDSEY FAY

COLLEGE OF DESIGN

TRICIA POTTS

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

ANGELA DEARINGER

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FORD STANLEY

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



Is your business ready to engage deeper with UK?

To express interest in becoming a OneUK partner or discover the many other ways businesses can engage with UK, contact Kimberly Kluemper at kim.kluemper@uky.edu

