



University of
Kentucky

College of Engineering

Dean's Report to the College Faculty and Staff

November 16, 2022

ABET – thank you.

- Our site visit for the Lexington programs is complete
- There were a relatively small number of shortcomings identified across programs
- It is likely that these will be resolved through the editing process that concludes in May of 2023
- Accreditation actions are expected in October 2023.

Large scale forces (resources).

- Earmarks are back, but capped at 1% of federal discretionary spending (\$12 billion in FY22)
- \$683.5 million for asset preservation pools (bond funded, with half of the funding available in the first year, and half in the second) with a required institutional match of 30% for research institution
- \$40 million for the "Bucks for Brains" Endowment Match Program (\$30 million for research institutions, \$10 million for comprehensive institutions). The Bucks for Brains program matches public dollars and private donations to encourage research at Kentucky universities. Bucks for Brains funding is highly correlated with growth in endowments and sponsored research.

Local forces.

- The University enrolled its largest first year class ever – 6,120 students pushing total enrollment nearly 33,000—an all time high. Post secondary enrollment nationwide is down by 1.3 million since 2020
- The University graduation rate stands at 69%, up 10 percentage points since 2006. Less than 100 public institutions nationwide have a graduation rate exceeding 70%
- UK Invests: an opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of financial wellness, practice financial investing and receive monetary rewards for institution-identified healthy behaviors.

Summer-Fall 2022 Engineering accomplishments.

- We have secured BOT authorization for expenditure up to \$30 million to fund design of the Funkhouser Modernization and Expansion project
- We have secured an \$8 million funding package to enable construction of the EduceLab to support Brent Seales' digital restoration initiative
- We are in the process of bringing a multi-million dollar per year energy-related research group into Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the Center for Applied Energy Research
- We have seated a first-year class of 820 students and have continued to expand the college role in front-end undergraduate student recruiting.

2022 Engineering challenges.

- The college received a net 1% increase in its general funds budget for FY23 (about \$350K). Effects of the FY21 budget cut still affect our internal resource allocations
- An upset labor market is resulting in very small staff recruiting pools and failed recruitments
- Resilience deficit—faculty and staff burnout.

Priorities for the next 18 months.

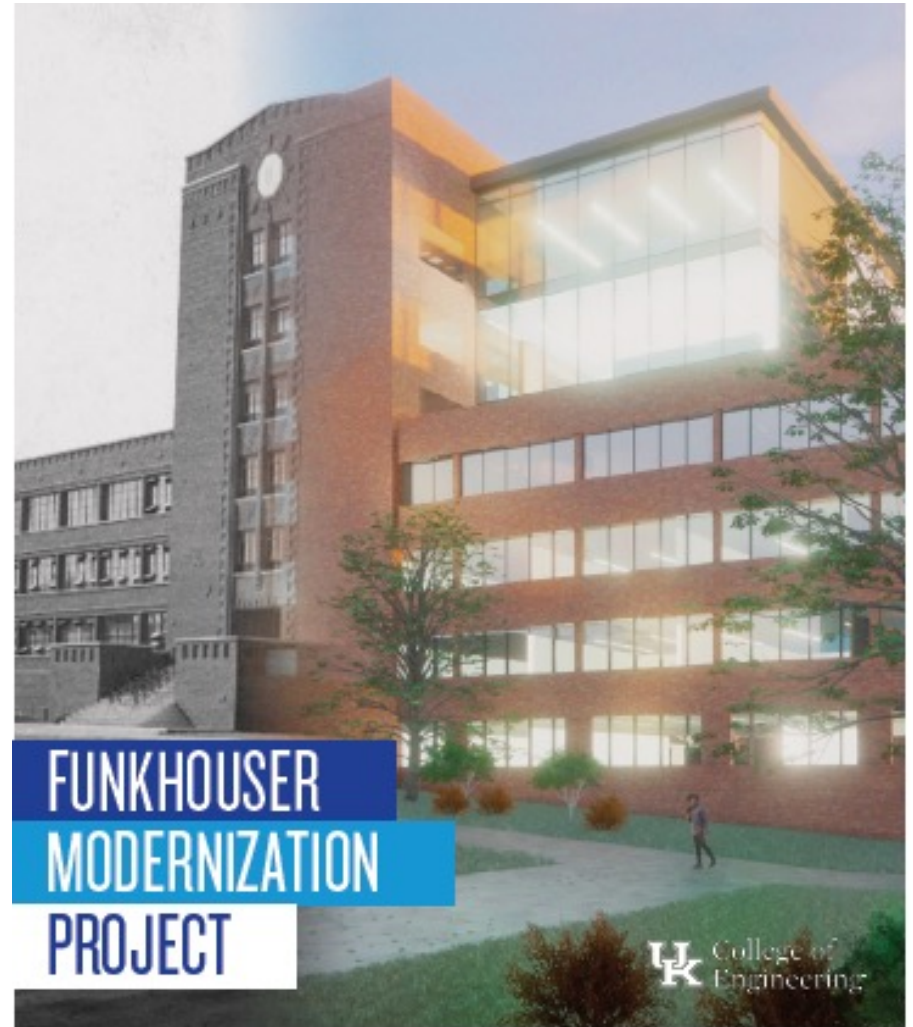
- Strengthen resource pools we control
- Grow academic programming and enrollment
- Grow the research portfolio
- Expand facilities
- Elevate national reputation of the college and the departments.

Leadership transitions within the college.

- Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Facilities: Dr. Mike Renfro appointed as of November 1,
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lead: Dr. Johné Parker appointed as Acting Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the college.
- Chair, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering: Search forming.

Funkhouser Renovation and Modernization

- Project costs have escalated from \$125 to \$155 million
- Split project into two phases
- Phase I: new 100,000 SF build immediately adjacent to Funkhouser: \$125 million
- Phase II: demolition and renovation of Funkhouser and integration with new build
- Design starts immediately.

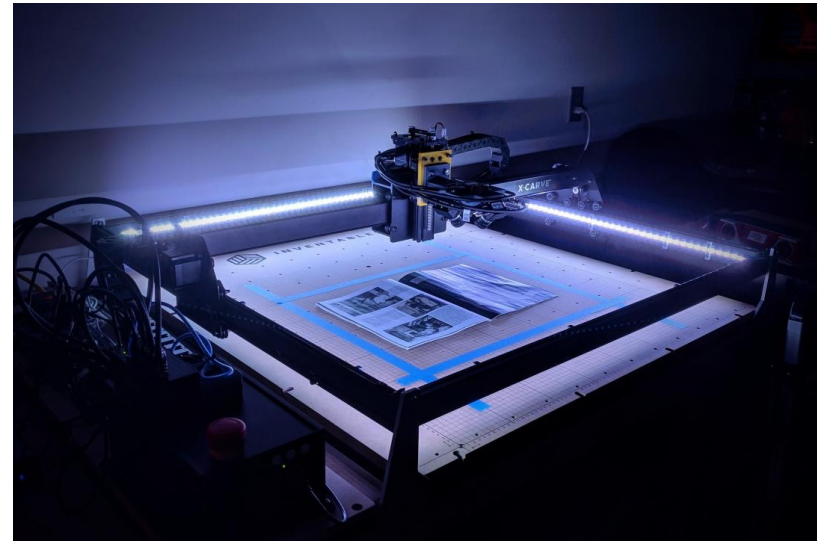


EduceLab: \$14 million NSF / \$8 million in institutional and philanthropic investment for heritage science.

- The EduceLab is a specialized heritage science laboratory designed to provide characterization solutions for challenging problems in the study of cultural heritage

These capabilities include:

- Materials characterization
- Advanced multimodal imaging with gold standard bench equipment as well as a flexible, configurable prototype environment
- Cyberinfrastructure and methodologies for capturing, structuring, processing, and mining large-scale data sets
- Mobile instrumentation for in-situ data acquisition and on-site evaluations.



Undergraduate Recruiting.

- There are now two ways for alumni to assist with undergraduate recruiting
- Individuals who wish to assist in recruiting "prospects" must participate in training coordinated by enrollment management. A prospect is a student who agrees to share contact information with the university for the purpose of recruitment
- Alumni continue to be welcome at Engineering-organized yield events in the February to April time frame.

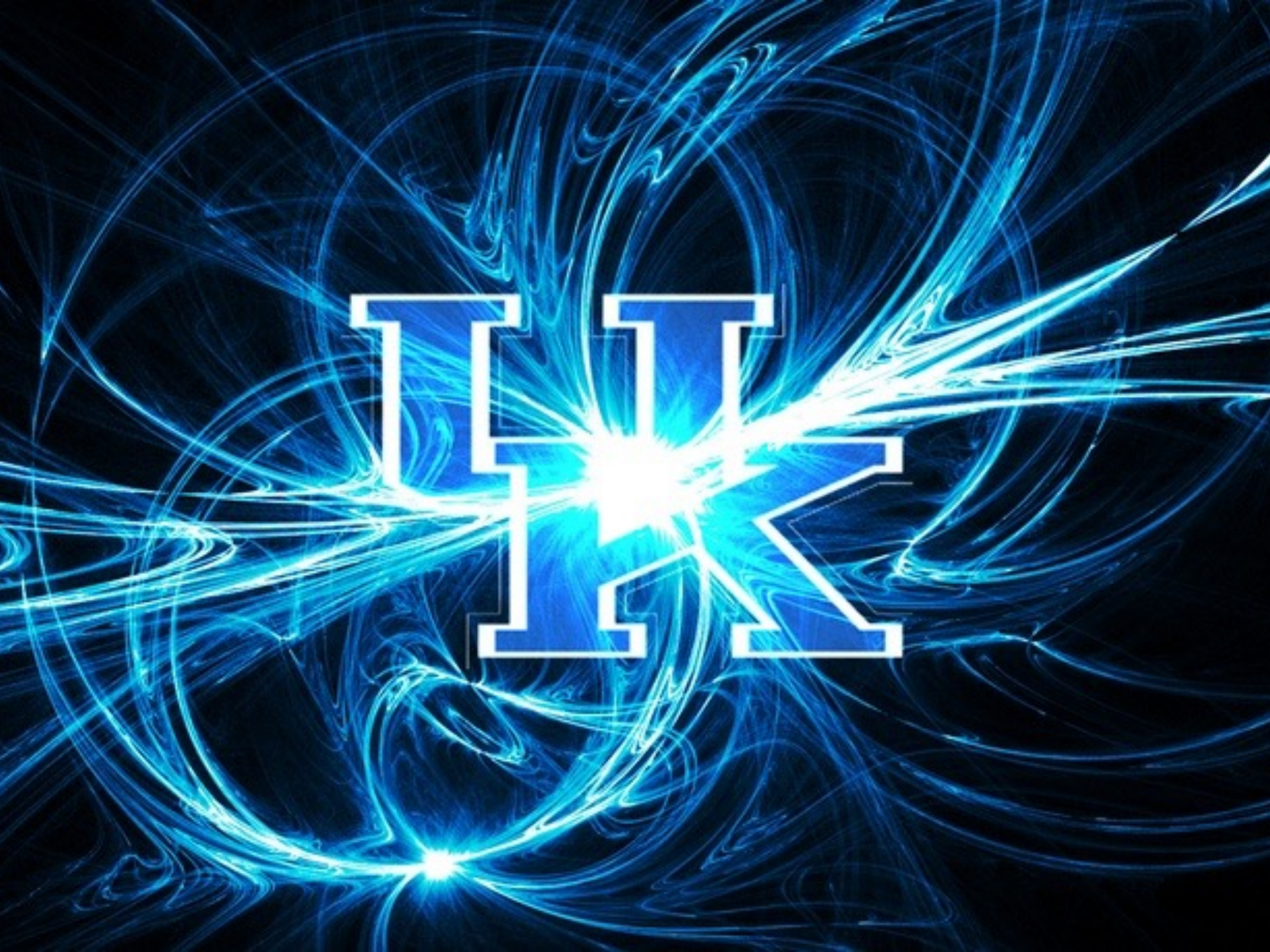
Liu research group moving from CAER to MAE.



- \$3 – 5 million in direct research expenditures
- 50 researchers
- strategic industry partnerships.

- Fossil Fuel Combustion and Pollutant (SO_x , NO_x and PM) Control
- Mercury Transformation and Control
- Carbon Management in Power Plants
- Metal Corrosion in Utility Environmental
- Gasification High Temperature Flue Gas Cleanup.

ITK

The image features the letters 'ITK' in a bold, blue, stylized font with a white outline. The letters are centered against a dark blue background filled with intricate, glowing blue energy patterns. These patterns consist of numerous thin, curved lines that swirl and radiate outwards, creating a sense of dynamic movement and high-tech energy. A bright, multi-pointed starburst of light is positioned at the center of the letters, where they overlap, adding to the overall luminous and futuristic aesthetic.