



A Message from University of Kentucky

PRESIDENT ELI CAPILOUTO



Dear Campus Community,

I am excited to announce that Dr. Bob DiPaola has accepted my offer to serve as Acting Provost.

An incredibly successful Dean of the College of Medicine, Bob will begin his new duties July 1. In the coming weeks, an Acting Dean will be named in consultation with faculty and staff in the College and in accordance with our Governing Regulations.

I want to thank faculty leaders in the Senate Council and the committee consisting of Provost-area team members and others that I recently formed. Collectively, they provided me with recommendations and rationale about the appointment in accordance with GR VIII of our Governing Regulations. I also gleaned rich insights from more than 100 people across our campus who gave me their time and thoughts in recent months about this position and the future of our campus.

Bob came to UK and the College of Medicine in 2016 after previously serving as director of the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey. He is a highly regarded leader who has successfully engaged multidisciplinary groups for initiatives in research and education.

His collaborative approach and commitment to shared governance -- working alongside outstanding faculty, staff and learners -- has led the College to unprecedented growth and progress in recent years in many ways that have led our institution in advancing our mission.

He is committed to research. Under his leadership the College has significantly accelerated and grown its research agenda by bringing diverse teams together in efforts such as the Alliance Research Initiative that now has more than 18 teams and 350 members across nine colleges. Through such efforts and others like it, the College has had a two-fold increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health. These efforts were a critical part of our success as a University in recent years in the dramatic increases we have made in garnering research funds that will support the health and well-being of our state.

Bob is also committed to the health and well-being of our state and our community. Most recently, he has served as team lead for our START committee, an interdisciplinary workgroup of leading clinicians and scientists who have advised us on health and safety practices in response to COVID-19. The START team has been vital to our successful work. His leadership of this committee will help ensure continued continuity, while prioritizing health and safety as we return to post-Covid operations.

He has provided unwavering support to the missions of education and service. Among other initiatives, Bob has led our efforts to open regional medical campuses in Bowling Green and Northern Kentucky as part of our focus on addressing the physician shortage in the state. The campuses, which have only come online since 2018, already are deeply embedded in these regions. Opening new campuses such as these requires intense collaboration as well as an ability to meet exacting standards for accreditation. Indeed, Bob is a full member of the Medical School National Accreditation Committee and has served on nine site teams for accreditation of medical colleges in recent years.

Bob has made diversity and inclusion a priority. He added an associate dean for diversity and inclusion, made these efforts one of the pillars of the College's strategic plan and has worked to increase training programs around unconscious bias, hiring and workforce development and increasing recruitment and retention of diverse students and employees. Bob has extended that commitment on a campus-wide level, serving as co-chair of the search committee for a permanent Vice President of Institutional Diversity.

As he begins his new duties, Bob will work closely with deans, faculty, staff and students to continue our advancement as a university deeply committed to student success and as a strong advocate of our role as a pre-eminent academic institution. Even though he will not formally begin in this new role until July 1, he will soon begin meeting people across the campus so that he can hit the ground running.

We will, of course, continue our work this fall to announce a formal process for a national search for a permanent provost. I also want to, once again, thank David Blackwell for his leadership as Provost. Dave will continue to serve as Provost until June 30.

This is a special community. I am gratified during a weekend that reminds us all of why we are here to be able to serve with such capable and committed people.

Thank you.

Eli Capilouto
President