



# HERU 2024

A proposal to host the

*2024 Honors Education at Research Universities Conference*

Presented by the Lewis Honors College

at the University of Kentucky



14 October 2022

Dear HERU Selection Committee:

I am pleased to submit the Lewis Honors College proposal to host the 2024 Honors Education at Research Universities conference. As one of the founders of the Honors Education at Research Universities Conference, it has been humbling to see how the Conference has grown, fulfilled, and exceeded our goals. While the National Collegiate Honors Council and the newly formed Council for Honors Education within the Association for Public and Land-grant Universities continue to serve important roles in the honors community, the focus of HERU upon the challenges and opportunities of providing an honors education within a large, research university continues to be valuable and needed.

The Lewis Honors College is a newer college, founded in 2017 upon the strong foundation of the University Honors Program, which dates back to 1958. This transformation from a program to a college was significant, increasing the student enrollment to 10% of the undergraduate student body, providing a dozen, dedicated Honors Lecturers, and a 30-credit curriculum that begins with the required course, “Honors Foundations: Knowledge and Society.” Finally, the LHC includes the unique Center for Personal Development which not only assists students in traditional career counseling services, but also works with students at a more personal level to identify their unique skill sets and life goals.

The City of Lexington and the University of Kentucky offer a picturesque, distinctive setting for the 2024 HERU Conference. With its distinctive blend of “bourbon and bluegrass,” Lexington is a modern, diverse, and cosmopolitan city with easy access via the Bluegrass Airport, offering non-stop flights from many major hubs. The University has undergone major revitalization over the last decade, including the transformation of the Gatton Student Center and the home of the LHC, Lewis Hall. Campus is within close proximity to a number of hotels. In addition to the offerings of our colleagues during the conference, there will be opportunities for tours of distilleries, horse farms, and museums. The dining in Lexington is local, varied, and second to none.

In this proposal you will find estimates of costs since, as we have all learned in the last two years, expenses are likely to change between now and May 2024. What will not change is our commitment to a registration fee of no greater than \$250, the same as for HERU 2022, and our institutional commitment of a *minimum* of \$35,000 to support the success of this significant conference.

We are proud to offer our proposal to host the 2024 HERU Conference. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Christian M. M. Brady, The T. W. Lewis Dean  
Lewis Honors College  
University of Kentucky

## Proposed Conference Dates

Following past practice, we propose a two-day conference beginning on Tuesday, May 21 and concluding on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. These dates are proposed to avoid conflicts with other May events such as graduations, end-of-term responsibilities, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Kentucky Derby celebrations. As noted in the schedule, those who choose to arrive on Monday afternoon may select to join a distillery tour on Monday evening, followed by a dinner.

## Proposed Conference Fees

The conference fee will be \$250.

## Conference Site and Venues

Lexington is the second-largest city in Kentucky, the seat of Fayette County, and the 57th-largest city in the United States. By land area, it is the country's 28th-largest city. Known as the "Horse Capital of the World," and the home of Bourbon, Lexington is within the state's Bluegrass region and offers a variety of opportunities for rich, cultural engagement. The University of Kentucky is located in the heart of Lexington and has undergone a dramatic transformation of its campus and facilities in the last decade. There are also several outstanding hotels within a half to one-and-a-half-mile walk, including a Holiday Inn which offers room rates in the \$120 - \$200 range (and a quick Uber). These prices are, of course, subject to change.

Conference sessions and activities will take place at the University of Kentucky. The newly renovated Gatton Student Center offers two, configurable, ballrooms, a theatre venue, and multiple meeting rooms as well as a number of quick dining options. In addition, Lewis Hall, the home of the Lewis Honors College, offers large gathering spaces for registration, exhibits, and poster sessions as well as four large, reconfigurable classrooms and two conference rooms for panel venues and breakout segments.

## Transportation

Bluegrass Airport is a major airport, located less than 7 miles from campus. Numerous ground options are available including Uber, Lyft, Taxi services, as well as Lex Tran that offers busing options as well. For some events we will be offering shuttle services from downtown hotels.

Most major cities offer flights into the Bluegrass Airport with non-stop or one-stop options. At current rates, non-stop flights from a selection of representative cities are Atlanta - \$365, Charlotte - \$498, Chicago - \$440, Detroit - \$323, Houston - \$575, New York - \$355, and Washington DC - \$365. These prices are, of course, subject to change.

## Proposed Schedule and Pre-Conference Events (Anticipated 150-200 Participants)

### Monday May, 20

Optional. An afternoon field trip to a Kentucky Bourbon Distillery, followed by dinner, will be available for an additional fee, approximately \$100 all inclusive.



*By May 2024 the University of Kentucky's new James B. Beam Institute will be open on campus.*

### Tuesday, May 21

8:00 – 9:30 am	Welcome and Breakfast
9:30 – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions
12:15 – 1:45 pm	Lunch with Discussion Tables
1:45 – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Campus Tours
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Reception
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Dinner & Event

### Wednesday, May 22

8:30 – 9:30 am	Plenary Panel and Breakfast
9:30 – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions
12:15 – 1:45 pm	Lunch and Panel or Featured Speaker
1:45 – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Reception
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Small Group Excursions to Local Sites and Restaurants

## Draft Budget and University Financial Support

The University of Kentucky has pledged a minimum of \$35,000 for the purpose of carrying out this conference. Based on a review of the previous conference experiences, this budget should be sufficient to make the conference exciting and substantive while still economical for all participants.

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Projected Cost</b>
Food and beverages (breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee and snacks)	\$45,000
HERU Dinner – Tuesday Evening Event for all Participants	\$15,000
IT and Presenter Support	\$4,000
Printing, Promotion, and Misc. Materials	\$6,000
Conference Services (website, rentals, etc.)	\$4,000
Local Transportation (shuttles)	\$11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>

<b>Revenue Sources</b>	<b>Projected Amounts</b>
Registration Fees (\$250 x 200)	\$50,000
University of Kentucky Contribution (minimum of \$35,000)	\$35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>

### **Planning Committee and Experience Hosting Meetings and Conference**

The Lewis Honors College hosts or sponsors well over 150 events onsite annually and employs 18 professional staff members as well as over 75 student “Peer Mentors and Ambassadors” who plan, organize, and staff events.

## About the UK Lewis Honors College

Founded in 1865 as a public, land-grant institution adjacent to downtown Lexington, the University of Kentucky (UK) is dedicated to improving lives through excellence in education, research, creative work, service, and health care. Nestled in the scenic heart of the beautiful Bluegrass region, UK plays a critical leadership role by promoting diversity, inclusion, economic development, and human well-being. The UK campus has grown significantly in the last decade to cover 3 million square feet and \$6 billion of new space on campus. UK is the home to more than 31,000



*Lewis Hall, Home of the Lewis Honors College*

students and 12,000 employees. The state's flagship university consists of 17 academic and professional colleges where students choose from more than 200 majors and degree programs. UK currently holds national rankings in more than 90 academic programs.

The University of Kentucky is one of a small number of universities that gathers all major academic disciplines, a medical school and center, a college of law and such programs as agriculture and engineering onto a single, contiguous campus, which facilitates shared discoveries and interdisciplinary collaborations. The student body is diverse, representing more than 100 countries, every state in the nation, and all 120 Kentucky counties. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall, and Gates fellowships. Research at UK is a dynamic enterprise encompassing 50 research centers and institutes that provide access to both traditional scholarship and emerging technologies. The University of Kentucky's agenda displays a commitment to accelerating the university's growth toward academic excellence in all areas and gaining worldwide recognition for its outstanding academic programs, its commitment to undergraduates, its success in building a diverse community, and its engagement with the larger society.

The Lewis Honors College at the University of Kentucky was launched in the fall semester of 2017. Supported by a \$23.5 million gift made by Kentucky native and UK alumnus Thomas W. Lewis and his wife Jan in 2015, the Lewis Honors College Vision is to "provide a world class honors experience that is known for the success of its students, the quality of its faculty and curriculum, the respect of its peers, and the economic and social progress of our communities."

This upgrade from a program to a college is intentional and significant. While generations of alumni have participated successfully in the previous Honors Program, which began in 1958, a new, expanded course has now been charted for honors education at UK. The beautifully appointed Lewis Hall, which was

constructed with support from the Lewis gift, has allowed a significant expansion of honors college programming. The college is staffed by five personal and career counselors (making up our Center for Personal Development), five academic advisors, twelve full-time lecturers, two faculty administrators, a director of college life, and additional administrative leaders and staff members.

The state-of-the art Lewis residence hall features four floors of living space, including room for 346 residents in two-bedroom suites. In the fall of 2018, this building joined three other residence halls to form the Honors Quad, which houses the majority of honors students in a living learning community of like-minded students.

The Mission of the Lewis Honors College is “to better the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the world by helping students to explore their purpose, develop intellectually, and lead with integrity.”



*The Lewis Honors College Medallion inscribed with the words "Purpose, Intellect, Integrity" on a book held in the branches of the Tree of Knowledge.*

## About the City of Lexington



The University of Kentucky is located in the center of Lexington and actively cooperates with local leadership to foster a vibrant community spirit. Traditionally this region is celebrated as the “Horse Capital of the World” and offers equine related attractions such as the Kentucky Horse Park, Keeneland Race Course, and the Red Mile harness-racing track that eagerly welcome interested visitors. Its picturesque, gently rolling countryside is home to many of the world’s greatest and most familiar thoroughbred race horses and the elegant horse farms that produce them.

Lexington offers a thriving restaurant culture that includes an abundant range of local and international cuisines. From the innovative variety of the family of restaurants run by Chef Ouita Michel (an Honors graduate) to the steak-house empire of Bruce Drake, UK alumni feature prominently on this burgeoning restaurant scene. As the birthplace of bourbon, the Lexington region is a launching point for gracious tours of historic distilleries such as Maker’s Mark and Woodford Reserve that reveal distinctive and proprietary approaches to creating the world’s best versions of that drink.

Lovers of history will enjoy points of interest such as the restored Shaker village of Pleasant Hill, Ashland, the estate of politician Henry Clay, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, Boonesboro, Fort Harrod, and others. Nature lovers will find Lexington a point of departure for many hiking and climbing options, such as the Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, the UK



Arboretum, and McConnell Springs. The Natural Bridge State Resort Park offers access to the storied Red River Gorge, which attracts rock climbers and campers from all over the world.

The charm of Lexington, which offers an excellent quality of life, lies in the fact that it exhibits the cosmopolitan amenities of a big city while maintaining a comfortable, friendly, small-town feel.



The recent construction of the Honors Quad at the center of the University of Kentucky campus offers the opportunity for this event to be entirely self-contained with comfort and convenience in new, carefully designed buildings. Attractive outdoor and indoor spaces are readily available. Next door to Lewis Hall is The 90 Dining Venue that also features an Academic Support section offering six additional classrooms and two conference rooms. Classroom space is also available, as needed, in the three other buildings that make up the Honors Quad: Donovan, Johnson, and Haggin Halls; all of which are recently constructed buildings that are part of the campus revitalization project. All classrooms will accommodate at least 30 participants, some as many as 60, and are equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. Wi-Fi is readily available to all guests, in all spaces. The courtyard that connects the buildings is an attractive green space with abundant seating and tables. The 90 Dining Venue, which is located next door to the Lewis Honors College offers additional dining facilities.

# Appendix – Meeting Accommodations

## Gatton Student Center



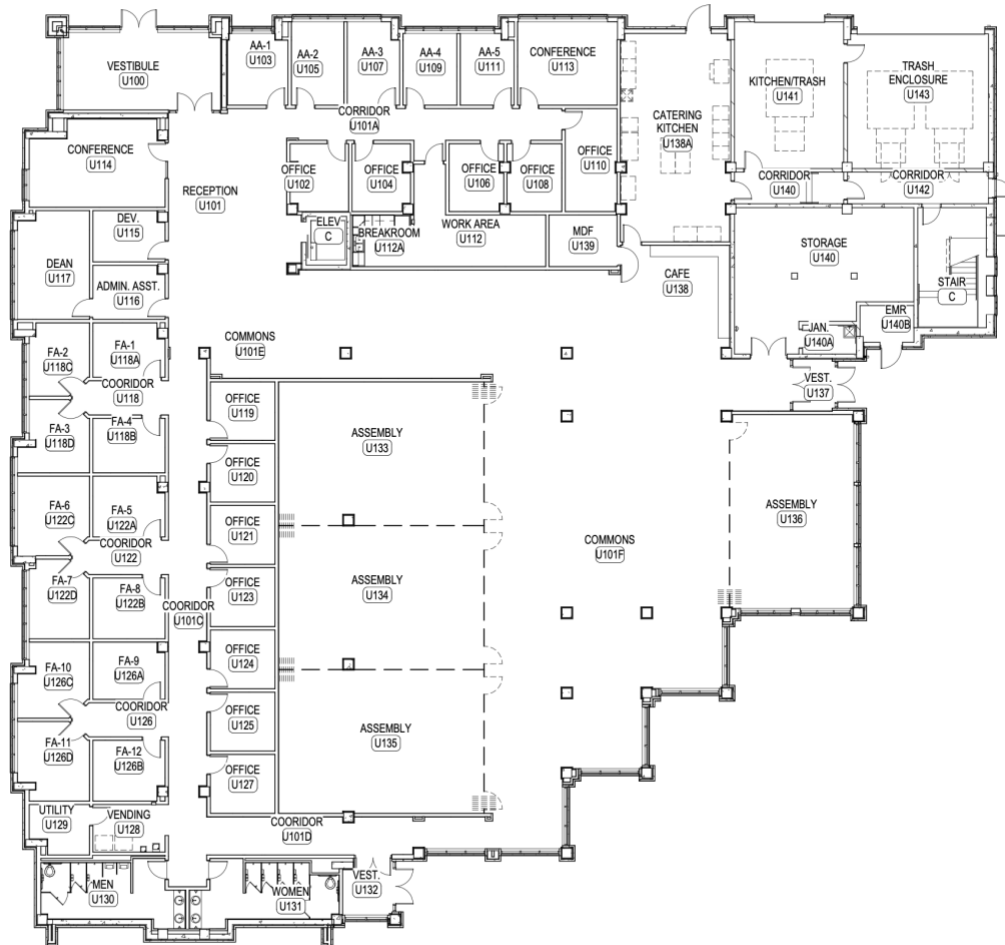
SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR

## Lewis Hall Floor Plan

“Assembly” indicates Classroom. The entire space opens up and can seat up to 300 people for a catered dinner or gathering.



Downtown Lexington and the University of Kentucky  
Buildings in dark blue are the University, demonstrating the close proximity between UK and Downtown.

