

Wildcat Canter

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY AG EQUINE PROGRAMS NEWSLETTER



August 2020

Welcome Back Students!



UK hosting annual Equine Career and Opportunity Fair virtually

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Welcome back week, campus scavenger hunt

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Wildcat Wrangler retreat held Aug. 23

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UK's Kathy Sheppard-Jones publishes book highlighting diversity and inclusion for Kentucky kids

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UK Human Development Institute (HDI) Executive Director Kathy Sheppard-Jones turned her personal experiences into a learning opportunity for Kentucky kids. Sheppard-Jones published "[You Can Do So Many Things!](#)" — a book for children that highlights diversity and inclusion in the workforce.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Sept. 27 - Oct. 3, UK Equine Week of Service
- Oct. 1 - Equine Virtual Career Fair
- Oct. 12 - Midterm
- Nov. 1 - Experience Equine Week
- Nov. 3 - Reading Study Day for students
- Nov. 24 - Last day of in person classes
- Nov. 25-27 - Thanksgiving break
- Dec. 1-4 - Finals week
- Dec. 4 - End of the fall semester
- Dec. 10 - Equine Virtual Senior Sendoff

Welcome back! Whether you are a freshman stepping onto Kentucky's campus for the first time (and maybe getting a little lost), a senior taking your "last first day of school" picture for mom or a long time faculty member learning how to run Zoom and PowerPoint at the same time (and doing a fantastic job at it), this semester may feel familiar, but it looks nothing like any one of us wishes it did.

The excitement to get back to class and to learn about the one thing we are all so collectively passionate about was evident in the Equine Science and Management session of the College of Agriculture's Welcome Meeting, via Zoom, right before the first day of classes. During breakout sessions, first year students shared their aspirations and concerns for the upcoming semester with a panel of Wildcat Wrangler student ambassadors. Playing the part as the lead peer mentor for the Wranglers this academic year, it was comforting to know that many of the students were beyond excited to start their journey of learning about the equine industry, regardless of whether it was virtually, in a hybrid format or in socially-distanced classrooms. Although their joy of moving into the dorms, meeting new people and being away from home for the first time was almost always matched with fears of taking complicated courses, being unable to navigate virtual learning and getting involved on campus.

As one of 13 Wildcat Wranglers, my goal is to advise, motivate, inform and support any student in the equine program. Chances are, after three years on campus, lots of ups and downs, countless courses, a few jobs and industry exposure, there aren't many questions that I can't help you find an answer to. I chose UK knowing that I would be the first person from my hometown in Maryland to attend UK for the equine program. Needless to say, when I showed up on campus, 12 hours from home, I had questions all the time – a ton of them. Even though it can be overwhelming at times with so many options in our program, my professors and advisors helped me find my niche doing undergraduate research in the immunology lab at the Gluck Equine Research Center and I would not trade my experience at UK for anything. Since launching the Wildcat Wrangler program officially in the Fall of 2019, it has been so great to know that there is now an accessible, peer-based outlet for all of those questions that potential students and current students alike may have.

Going to equestrian events like the Land Rover Three Day Event, Retired Racehorse Project and any other high traffic event we could find to help in recruiting potential Wildcats to the program was the initial focus of the Wildcat Wranglers. Due to pandemic-related restrictions, being out and talking to a ton of different people every weekend is exactly what we cannot do. But the great thing about equine students at UK, is that we know how to adapt. Our program coordinator, Kristen Wilson, keeps us all thinking of new ways to innovate and creative ways to reach out to our students – to let you know this is not just a major that you've chosen but genuinely a tight knit community that cares for one another. We have converted many of our events that we typically host in-person to virtual events, but sadly the bouncy horse races from the Welcome Back BBQ in years' past didn't make the virtual cut. Already this semester we put together a campus-wide scavenger hunt over Instagram (@ukequineprograms) with many chances to win UK Ag Equine gear. Freshman received care packages from the Equine Programs office with treats from the Wranglers during the second week of class with even more information about the program, resources, ways to get involved and chances to win UK Equine swag as well. We have also put an emphasis on student welfare during this time and are trying to ensure that there is access to as much information, as many friendly faces and as many fun events that we can possibly put on to get equine students engaged.

We invite you to join us for many upcoming virtual events and to keep an eye on the Ag Equine Programs' social media as well as the Tuesday TidBits to learn about future events. We would love to see you! If you ever have any questions for a Wildcat Wrangler, or about the Ag Equine Program, feel free to fill out the GoogleDoc at <https://forms.gle/LwKVN1FiicZxd5dSA> and a member of our group will email you back.

Mackenzie Johnson, ESMA Senior



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UK hosting annual Equine Career and Opportunity Fair virtually

By Holly Wiemers

University of Kentucky Ag Equine Programs will host a virtual Equine Career and Opportunity Fair Oct. 1 from 4-7 p.m. EDT on Handshake. The annual event is open and free to all college students. Registration is available to organizations wishing to match job, internship or volunteer opportunities with interested equine students.

“While this year’s Career and Opportunity Fair will be virtual, we know we have employers, students and alums that need to connect and provide employment opportunities,” said Savannah Robin, internship coordinator in the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. “Even though we can’t host this event in person, we are doing all that we can do to help students and alums network and become exposed to the diverse opportunities within the equine industry. Additionally, it gives employers outside of Kentucky the opportunity to share their information, which we are excited about.”



According to Robin, opportunities featured will include volunteering, job shadowing, internships, externships, part-time jobs and full-time positions.

Participants can join 30-minute group sessions or 10-minute one-on-one sessions with prospective employers. Students can attend one or multiple sessions. Session times and availability will be updated once participating employers have registered.

“The Equine Career and Opportunity Fair is an annual resource for employers, students and others seeking positions in equine-affiliated industries and organizations that we are excited to build,” said James MacLeod, UK Ag Equine Programs’ director. “In reality, applications of the emergent online technologies that have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic will almost certainly be retained on some level for communication and networking going forward. This year’s career fair may well prove to be a progressive look into the future of professional conferences that will merge substantially expanded online dimensions with the more traditional in-person components.”

Those interested in attending should make sure they have a Handshake account. Employer registration is live [here](#). Student and alumni registration can be found [here](#).

For questions about the event or help with registration, please contact Robin at savannah.robin@uky.edu.

Welcome back week, campus scavenger hunt

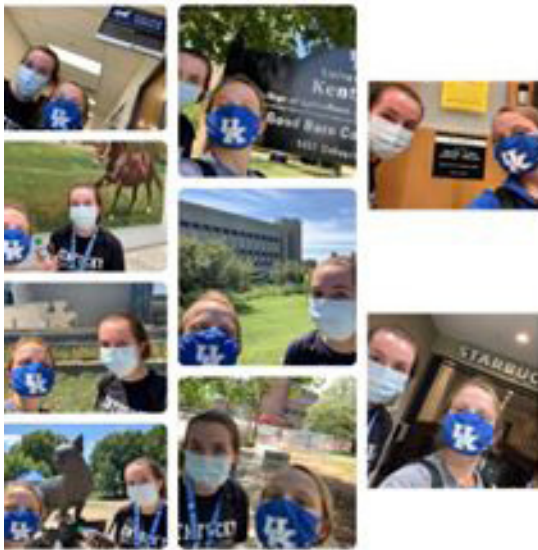
In a socially-distanced world, our annual Welcome Back BBQ and Ice Cream social events had to take on a new look and feel. Instead of a large gathering where students played games, ate food and met each other (not safe during a pandemic), we settled for a consolation fun time of scavenger hunting. Students were invited to visit various locations on campus that play a role in their equine journey, pose for photos and send photos to the program's Instagram. Equine swag was up for grabs, and students responded.

Winners:

- 1st Place - Grace Barrier and Sarah Davis
- 2nd Place - Olivia Nunez and Emily Johnson
- 3rd Place - Maddi Swim and Sophia Wildermuth
- Most Creative - Monica Egnizzo and Danielle Brewer

Additional door prizes were won by:

- Ellie Powell
- Gabby DiLemme
- Piper McGehee



Wildcat Wrangler retreat held Aug. 23

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Meet the Wranglers!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Wildcat Wrangler student ambassador team. See their profiles on the next page. *Profile design credit to Wrangler Mackenzie Johnson.*

Margaret Babiarz



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Junior, new member
- Hometown: Middletown, DE
- Interested in: Breed Organizations
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: The dedicated staff and the wide variety of clubs and teams!
- Fun fact: The past 3 dogs that I've had are named after The Flintstones characters.

Camille Camp



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '21, returning member
- Hometown: New Orleans, LA
- Interested in: A professional connection to the hunter/jumper industry
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: I love going to class everyday learning about a topic that I am passionate about!
- Fun fact: My twin sister, Grace, is also a Wildcat Wrangler!

Grace Camp



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '21, returning member
- Hometown: New Orleans, LA
- Passionate about: Hunter/jumper industry
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: How we are all from different backgrounds but can all bond over our passion for the equine industry.
- Fun fact: I have an identical twin sister who is also a Wildcat Wrangler!

Nicholas D'Amore



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Sophomore, new member
- Hometown: Annapolis, MD
- Interested in: Law school
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: The location and access to all the top equine facilities in the United States and the world.
- Fun fact: I have a dual citizenship in Italy

Taylor Dorsey



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Sophomore, new member
- Hometown: Milford, NH
- Interested in: Vet school and showing
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: The amazing professors!
- Fun fact: I'm a huge game of thrones fan.

Becca Geringer



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Junior, new member
- Hometown: Elburn, IL
- Interested in: Dude Ranch Associations
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: All of the classes we have available to take and that I actually enjoy taking them.
- Fun fact: My horse is related to Secretariat!

Ryn Harris



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Sophomore, new member
- Hometown: Peachtree Corners, GA
- Interested in: Breeding & thoroughbred sales
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: The versatility and the range of both the classes and the professors.
- Fun fact: I have 4 siblings and I'm the 2nd oldest child!

Mackenzie Johnson



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '21, returning member
- Hometown: Salisbury, MD
- Interested in: Grad school + equine research
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: Making connections with my professors and having the opportunity to take so many different and interesting classes.
- Fun fact: My dog, Cash, ate \$1,000 as a puppy!

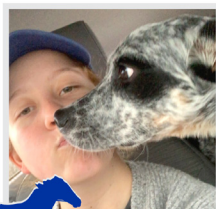
Ashlyn Justice



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '21, returning member
- Hometown: Suwanee, GA
- Interested in: Equestrian event planning
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: Getting to work hands on with horses and in labs.
- Fun fact: One of my bucket list items is to hit all 50 states by 35. I'm almost half way there!

Hannah Koehler



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '20, returning member
- Hometown: Birmingham, AL
- Passionate about: Eventing and training
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: How you get fully immersed in the equine industry.
- Fun fact: I'm currently in the process of getting my own horse!

Miranda Kunes



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior, new member
- Hometown: Cincinnati, OH
- Interested in: Research
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: I love that everyone is bonded through our mutual love for horses.
- Fun fact: I have milked a mare before during a research study!

Rachel Reed



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior '21, returning member
- Hometown: Dayton, OH
- Interested in: Equine pharmaceutical sales
- Favorite thing about UK's Equine Program: The professors and advisors in the program genuinely care and want to help us succeed. They help to make a big school feel smaller and you get to build a relationship with them through different programs and classes.
- Fun fact: I saw the ball drop in New York City on New Year's Eve this past year!

Mimi Richards



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Senior, new member
- Hometown: Lexington, KY
- Interested in: Professional riding or graduate school to do equine research
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: The community and how passionate everyone is about horses!
- Fun fact: My family has no horse background - I got introduced to horses through a friend when I was young and fell in love.

Mrs. Kristen Wilson



WILDCAT WRANGLER SPOTLIGHT

- Team Advisor
- Hometown: Paris, KY
- Passionate about: being UK's Equine Science and Management Program's Academic Coordinator
- Favorite thing about UK EQSM: Working with students in so many different ways and getting to know them.
- Fun fact: I breed and show flat shod Tennessee Walking Horses!

July Equine Science Review recap

By Holly Wiemers

The Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky is a monthly newsletter from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment that highlights the important equine work happening at the university. UK is home to world-class research and service excellence in equine health, safety, nutrition, pasture and forages, economics, engineering, environmental compliance and many others. Programs at UK offer the depth and breadth of scope fitting its location in the heart of horse country. Have updates delivered to your inbox each month by subscribing to the Review at <https://mailchi.mp/uky/equinesciencereview>.

The August 2020 issue of the Equine Science Review: highlighting research and outreach efforts at the University of Kentucky can be found [here](#) or on our [website](#). From the site, you can download the Issuu version of the publication, or the PDF directly. There are also individual links to each story.

Stories this month include:

- [Which Grasses Should You Plant in Your Pastures? Seed Selection for Pasture Renovation](#)
- [Commentary; COVID-19 and Horses](#)
- [UK's Gluck Equine Research Foundation Looking to Future with Equine Biological Passport Program](#)
- [Li and Wang join UK Gluck Center's Infectious Disease Program](#)
- [AAEP's Equine Disease Communication Center Alert; Potomac Horse Fever in KY](#)
- [Science Sleuths: the Science that Shapes Diagnostic Tests: What Does 'Statistically Significant' Actually Mean?](#)
- [Asian Longhorned Tick Found in Kentucky](#)
- [UK Gluck Center's Hossam El-Sheikh Ali and Carleigh Fedorka Win Prestigious Awards](#)
- [Forage Timely Tips](#)
- [Graduate Student Spotlight: Jennifer Cain](#)
- [Watch for Blister Beetles in Hay](#)
- [UK's Kathy Sheppard-Jones Publishes Book Highlighting Diversity and Inclusion for Kentucky Kids](#)
- [If you Build it, Will They Come? Undergrad Research Project Studies Horses' Inclination to Seek Shade at Certain Temperatures](#)
- [Update on Nocardioform Placentitis](#)
- [UK In the News](#)

Have updates delivered to your inbox each month by subscribing to the Review [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTING RESEARCH
AND OUTREACH EFFORTS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

AUGUST 2020
ISSUE #0005

EQUINE SCIENCE REVIEW

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@UKAGEQUINE ON FACEBOOK/TWITTER

WHICH GRASSES SHOULD YOU PLANT IN
YOUR PASTURES? 3
Seed selection for pasture renovation

GLUCK ESTABLISHING EQUINE BIOLOGICAL
PASSPORT PROGRAM 7
Will identify specific biomarkers to
detect drug use and monitor over time.

LI AND WANG JOIN GLUCK CENTER'S
INFECTIOUS DISEASE PROGRAM 8
UK welcomes two accomplished
researchers.

BOOK HIGHLIGHTING DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION FOR KENTUCKY KIDS 16
Book for young children highlights
diversity, inclusion in workforce.



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

UK Ag Equine Programs launches new website

UK Ag Equine Programs unveiled a new website this month, coinciding with the start of a new semester. The updated site includes increased functionality and resources for students, horse owners and industry professionals. Visit <https://equine.ca.uky.edu/> to see what's new!

DISCOVER

Clubs & Teams

WITH UK AG EQUINE PROGRAMS



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

JOIN US AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES FOR MORE INFO

COLLEGIATE PROFESSIONAL HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION (CPHA)	09/02 5 PM	UK EVENTING TEAM	09/01 7 PM
MANRRS	08/31 7 PM	UK POLO TEAM	08/31 5 PM
UK DRESSAGE TEAM	09/01 8 PM	HORSE RACING CLUB	08/31 8 PM
UK EQUESTRIAN TEAM (IHSA HUNT SEAT)	09/01 5 PM	UK RODEO TEAM	09/02 6 PM
UK WESTERN EQUESTRIAN TEAM (IHSA)	08/31 6 PM	UK SADDLE SEAT TEAM	09/02 7 PM

UK Hunt Seat Equestrian Team

The team competes in the hunt seat portion of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association, which is an organization that allows college riders to compete on a regional and national level. The team needs riders at all levels who can compete in everything from first-year beginner walk trot to the most advanced open fences class. During the year we show at eight to ten regular season shows (four to six a semester). The team is based out of Ballyhigh Show Stables.

The team decides on members solely based on tryouts. This allows everyone who participates in tryouts to be given a chance to make the team without any bias. The team has an informational meeting during the first week of classes every fall. More information about this will be posted on the team's social media pages closer to the time. This meeting will give out more specifics about the team for that year and allow for tryout sign-up.

Due to the large amount of interest in the team each year, the team had to make cuts. However, because it needs to fill all IHSA divisions, it selects riders of all abilities. The team prefers to keep the membership around 35-40 members. However, everyone has to tryout each year, so new members have as equal a chance of making the team as returning members. Decisions are sent out within a week of tryouts. Even with the season being cut short, the team was the 2019-2020 Region 3 Champion.

Make sure to follow the team's social media.
 Instagram: [uk_equestrian_](#)
 Facebook: [University of Kentucky Equestrian Team](#)



UK Western Equestrian Team

The team requires weekly lessons in Paris and three shows per semester. If you qualify for regionals, semifinals and/or nationals you will continue to have lessons and compete in those shows as well. To get involved with the team, reach out via the social media accounts linked below and come to the team's first meeting.



The team is very proud of its members and the fact that several riders qualify for semifinals every year! The team is associated with Bennie Sargent Quarter Horses and host home shows at Lakeside Arena.

No experience is needed to join the team. If you are interested, the team's coaches will teach you everything you need to know!

Facebook- [University of Kentucky Western Equestrian Team IHSA](#)

Instagram- [@ukywt](#)

UK Eventing Team

This University of Kentucky team competes in the Intercollegiate Eventing League at sanctioned U.S. Eventing Association events. Students can join the team by messaging any of the team social media pages, or our president Jackie LeMastus (502) 554-6403/Jlemastus@me.com and attending our first meeting via zoom on 8/26.

Even with the season being cut short this year, the team was the highest-ranking Intercollegiate team on the USEA leaderboard for 2020, with multiple members winning national end-of-the year titles. The UK Eventing team was also second and third place out of 15 teams at the 2019 Intercollegiate National Championships.



The team does not require tryouts nor does it have a specific barn related to the team; however, many members are at surrounding Lexington farms and train with the coach of their choosing. Something extra that the team does is hosting the Intercollegiate Challenge at Hagyard Midsouth Horse Trials and Jumpstart Horse Trials every year. This is an exciting time and a great way to meet new people as well as see teammates.

@ukeventing on Instagram

University of Kentucky Eventing team on Facebook

UK Horse Racing Club

The purpose of the club is to promote and educate members about the Thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industry. The club also takes pride in providing networking opportunities within the Thoroughbred industry.



The club takes monthly trips to different Thoroughbred farms or industry destinations which normally include a tour of the facility and time to ask questions as well as network with those who work there. This club provides you an incredible opportunity to see some of the world's best racing athletes as well get your own interactive experience and pictures of some of the horses usually only being seen on the television.

To get involved in the club, like and message the club's Facebook page linked below or email Averie at aele242@uky.edu and we will make sure to get you joined and part of the UK Horse Racing Club family.

Facebook Page: University of Kentucky Horse Racing Club

UK Saddle Seat Team

UK Saddle Seat is a club sports team that competes in saddle seat style riding competitions with surrounding Kentucky colleges and universities.

Typically, the team practices once per week and competes five times throughout the school year.

The team loves to have team dinners, tack-cleaning parties and other get-togethers to promote a close-knit team feel. No previous saddle seat experience is required, and everyone is encouraged to join this fun-loving, friendly, and competitive team.

Wingswept Farm is the team's home base, coached by Stephanie Brannon. The farm provides lesson horses to ride and tack to use, meaning that students don't need their own to participate.

Not only will participants grow as riders and get to compete at the collegiate level, but they will also make some new friends in the process! The team takes a lot of pride in being very inclusive and encourages everyone interested to take a lesson and try it out. The team has a range of members, from those who have never ridden before to those who have won world championship titles. Even with the season getting cut short, the team is pleased to announce that the team was the 2019-2020 Season ISSRA Overall Team Champion.

The team hosts an informational meeting at the beginning of the year explaining everything about the team, and anyone interested is invited to come learn more about what being a part of the team is all about. No riding experience or try-outs are required to join. If you have more questions, feel free to DM the team on social media or email members at uksaddleseatteam@gmail.com.

The team hosts two horse shows per season, one in the fall and one in the spring. These events are super fun and feature a silent auction and a concession stand. Families and friends are all encouraged to come watch and enjoy the show.

Instagram: [@uk_saddleseat](https://www.instagram.com/uk_saddleseat)

Facebook: UK Saddle Seat Team



Please note: the Dressage, Polo and Rodeo teams were featured in the summer issue of the Wildcat Canter. To see all of our teams, go [here](#).

UK's Kathy Sheppard-Jones publishes book highlighting diversity and inclusion for Kentucky kids

HDI Executive Director Kathy Sheppard-Jones turned her personal experiences into a learning opportunity for Kentucky's kids.

By Meg Mills, UK PR and Marketing. Source: UK Now, Aug. 3, 2020



University of Kentucky Human Development Institute (HDI) Executive Director Kathy Sheppard-Jones has turned her personal experiences into a learning opportunity for Kentucky kids. Sheppard-Jones has published "[You Can Do So Many Things!](#)" — a book for young children that highlights diversity and inclusion in the workforce.

"There are a lot of messages in the book about opportunity. We tried to include themes about work and diversity of life experience," Sheppard-Jones said. "We want families and children at a very young age to think of the world as theirs to explore, and that there are many paths and possibilities for everyone."

Through the book, children can follow along with the main character, Flynn, who has a mobility impairment. She explores various places related to the horse industry in Lexington, Kentucky. The book introduces its readers to the world of horses and possibilities for young children as they consider future work opportunities. "You Can Do So Many Things!" celebrates the horse industry in Kentucky's Bluegrass and the many possibilities for employment. Given that 1 in 3 Kentuckians experiences disability, and people with disabilities face employment barriers, this book also offers a different approach to understanding disability.

It is written for young readers, to encourage them — starting at very young ages — to think broadly about possible work in the horse industry. Over a dozen different career paths are highlighted in the book, as well as all different kinds of disabilities and different horse breeds. "You Can Do So Many Things!" also highlights local employers including the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Horse Park, Keeneland and Hallway Feeds.

"I was the horse crazy child growing up who was told my disability would not allow me to do what I wanted to do," Sheppard-Jones said. "So, I dedicated my life to help people with disabilities get jobs. I got to share my love of Lexington, horses and connecting people with real work. The book is my love letter to Lexington and the opportunities here."

The book is currently available as an accessible online PDF that includes an audio reading of the book, to allow different ways for kids to interact with the literature. Soft and hard cover copies will be available through the HDI online bookstore, and copies will be provided to child care centers around the state. "We want to make this book accessible and available to children throughout Kentucky," Sheppard-Jones said. "Ultimately, we want children and families to have high expectations and to be thinking about the future. Work matters. I want to broaden peoples' understanding of what is possible. Once you find the spark you can hone in on what aspects of a particular career path is most appealing.

"A special thank you to my editor, Caroline Gooden (an adjunct faculty member in UK College of Education), and illustrator, Brittany Granville. Brittany's talents really brought the book to life. The style and warmth of the images help the story gallop across the pages."



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