



Northern Kentucky University

Report to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Vol. 1, Issue 1

Callahan Hall Renovation Saves Millions of Dollars, Opens Full

NKU opened its newest residence hall this Fall when 400 students moved into James P. Callahan Hall. The building, was formerly a home for the elderly. Rather than build a new residential facility, NKU saved between \$5 million and \$7 million by purchasing and renovating the building, which increases the university's housing capacity to 12 percent of the student body, or roughly 1,850.

Callahan Hall features two learning communities: an Honors Community and an Entrepreneurship Wing. It houses

an incubator for the NKU Entrepreneurship program that will allow students to set up a business in their living space.

The building is the first residential facility to ever open at full occupancy at NKU. In fact, NKU students interested in university housing were again put on a waiting list. The university was forced to place some students in local hotels until NKU could accommodate them.

And the renovation had the additional benefit of removing an eyesore from the City of Highland Heights.

\$15 Million Gift Will Help NKU Meet Vision 2015 Goals

The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation matched the largest single-source gift to a public university in Kentucky history in August with a \$15 million investment in the NKU College of Business.

The money will be used to enhance student and faculty recruitment and retention and help to internationalize the College.

The gift positions NKU to meet critical regional business needs - including the Vision 2015 goal of creating 50,000 new high-pay jobs by 2015.

Last-Dollar Scholarship Program Increases Enrollment From Urban Core

NKU's partnership with Holmes and Newport high schools to provide lastdollar scholarship funding to students from those schools is paying dividends.

As an example, 35 incoming students from Holmes High School enrolled at NKU this fall, compared to just 12 in 2006.

Overall, 24% of students in the Holmes and Newport high school senior classes enrolled at NKU - up from just 16.1% in 2006.

PACES to Keep NKU On High-Efficiency Pace

As evidence of NKU's commitment to accelerating efforts that contribute to more efficient and effective operations, the President's Advisory Committee for Efficiencies and Savings (PACES) has begun its working to coordinate the formation, implementation and documentation of initiatives to enhance NKU's efforts to be good stewards of limited resources.

PACES seeks out creative cost-management ideas and is developing a campus-wide process for calculating, tracking and documenting cost savings.

NKU's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics Makes Learning Fun and Takes Math and Science Education Off-Campus and Into Schools

When Nobel Prize winner Stephen Sharp was asked when knew he wanted to be a scientist, he said he knew in the fourth grade. Most of his colleagues, he said, say the same thing.

The Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) at NKU seeks out those young scientists-in-waiting and exposes them to new worlds and new opportunities.

In fiscal year 2008 alone, CINSAM had contacts with 11,775 students, teachers and community members, ranging from week-long teacher workshops to hands-on science camps for elementary, middle and high school students.

Nearly 650 local teachers attended workshops and in-service opportunities developed and presented by CINSAM.

Since 2004, CINSAM has worked closely with eight schools in the six counties immediately south of Boone, Kenton and Campbell, resulting in tremendous gains in statewide science tests. The most impressive result was in "School 5," where in 2003 test scores were at about 55 on an accountability index. After CINSAM engagement, in 2007 those scores were more than doubled to nearly 115 on the index. All eight schools showed gains during this period.

CINSAM Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) camps have spurred several communities to develop their own programs with guidance and assistance from CINSAM. Fort Thomas, Augusta and Pendleton County all have their own CSI camps now, expanding the reach and number of students served by 300%.

Female high school students who attended a CINSAM engineering camp showed remarkable gains in their knowledge and interest in engineering careers. For example, students indicated a 375% increase in knowledge about rapid prototyping and a 200% increase in knowledge about arc welding.