



## ***NKU Graduate Program Growth will Help University 'Double the Numbers' and Meet Business Plan Goals***

As part of Northern Kentucky University's role in the statewide effort to double the number of bachelor degree holders by 2020, the university's Business Plan calls for enhancement at all levels of what it calls the "Talent Continuum." This includes nurturing and developing future talent; attracting and importing new talent; applying university resources through applied research, outreach, partnerships, public engagement and regional stewardship; and retaining and sustaining an educated populace through high-paying jobs, good quality of life and life-long learning opportunities.

To go along with the tremendous growth NKU has seen at the undergraduate level, including increasing undergraduate degree production by 52 percent over the past 10 years, the university has seen tremendous development at the graduate level as well.

In fall 2000, NKU received a total of about 700 applications to its eight master's programs and few graduate certificate programs. By fall 2007, that number had risen to 1,687 applications to NKU's 17 master's programs and more than 20 graduate certificate programs.

Applications for fall 2009 are up across the board - every NKU graduate program has seen an increase in applications for next fall. Overall, there has been a 42 percent increase in graduate applications.

Some programs have seen an unprecedented increase in interest. For instance, graduate applications within the College of Informatics are up 95 percent for fall 2009. College of Arts & Sciences applications are up 80 percent. College of Education applications - 52 percent.

"This is an exciting and challenging time for graduate programs at NKU," said Peg Griffin, director of the university's Office of Graduate Programs. "We are experiencing growth in both the number of programs we offer and the number of students we serve."

Griffin said the growth can be attributed to NKU's strong reputation for professionally focused graduate programs and to the expanded availability of online programs.

With such growth comes challenges. Despite a regional and statewide nursing shortage, NKU's M.S. in Nursing program remains constricted by a space shortage. Funding for a Health Innovations Center is the university's top capital priority and is the No. 2 priority on the list for all Kentucky universities. But in the meantime the NKU nursing program is partnering with the Master of Health Informatics program to meet the growing demand. Applications for the MHI program are up 153 percent.

### ***Program Brings the World into NKU, Local High School Classrooms***

This spring NKU is hosting 16 secondary-level teachers from around the globe for a professional development program funded through an International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) grant in the amount of \$149,894.

The program not only entails NKU classroom instruction on American pedagogical techniques, but also includes co-instructor internships at four local high schools.

"This program gives NKU and Northern Kentucky schools a marvelous opportunity to share our educational and regional culture with 16 outstanding international teachers from 13 different countries and to learn more about global perspectives from them," said Dr. Elaine Jarchow, dean of the NKU College of Education and Human Services.

NKU was one of five institutions selected as a host university from an extremely competitive process.

Participants hail from Malaysia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Venezuela, Morocco, Senegal, Brazil, Algeria, Indonesia, Philippines and Ecuador.

During the last four years, NKU has hosted two month-long English language teaching workshops for 20 United Arab Emirates pre-service teachers; two Fulbright-Hays secondary teacher exchanges for teachers from Uruguay and Thailand; one visit for Fulbright-Hays principals from Brazil; and one Egyptian post-doctoral researcher visit.

### **'Take Control of Summer'**

That's the message NKU is sending current students, incoming freshmen and students at other state universities returning home to Northern Kentucky for the summer.

The university is planning a more aggressive push for summer enrollment this year, letting students know summer courses are a great way to get ahead, catch up or make sure they are on track to graduate when they want.

NKU is developing a web page to make summer registration easier and will even offer drawings for free 2009-10 parking passes to students who enroll in summer classes.

"We have more space in the summer, the classes tend to be a bit smaller and students can focus on just one or two courses," said Joel Robinson, associate vice president for enrollment management.

## **DID YOU KNOW**

***From 1997-98 to 2007-08, NKU increased the number of undergrad degrees produced by 52%***