



## *With Record Applications, NKU Forced to Limit Enrollment*

Faced with a 35-percent increase in applications over last year, officials at Northern Kentucky University are anticipating that the school will, for the first time in its history, be forced to turn away qualified applicants this fall.

The university has seen an increase of 46.5 percent in applications from Kentucky residents. The application numbers - over 6,600 received thus far - are an all-time record at NKU, and while officials are encouraged by the high demand, they continue to be concerned about classroom capacity. The university announced in June that it would limit enrollment this fall.

Qualified freshmen with more than one academic deficiency under the university's admission standards who apply after July 1 will be deferred to the spring semester. Students with just one or no academic deficiencies are continuing to be admitted for the fall.

"Our community has come to know NKU as a place where students receive a high-quality education at an affordable price," said NKU

### **400 Qualified Nursing Students Turned Away Annually**

NKU turns away about 400 qualified students each year who want to major in nursing or other allied health field because of lack of classroom and laboratory space. The university is seeking \$92.5M in state funding for a Health Innovations Center that will help address the critical community need.

President James Votruba. "We have worked hard to ensure an up-close and personal experience for our students and we are proud to have an outstanding faculty and staff who care deeply about the students we serve. The commitment from the campus community made these record numbers possible."

Votruba noted that NKU has increased the number of regular admission students (those with no academic deficiencies) by 18.4 percent this year, indicating the improved quality of NKU's applicant pool. In addition, officials indicate that the applicant pool is the most diverse in NKU's history, with an increase in African American applications up 58.9 percent and Hispanic applications up 31 percent.

The tremendous growth, coupled with the university's historic underfunding, has left the university with few choices. "Unfortunately, reductions in state funding in recent years have made it difficult for NKU to continue to grow," Votruba said. "And this comes at a time when NKU is the top choice for a rapidly growing number of students. We wish we had other options, but right now we simply do not."

## **NKU Breaks Ground on Ultra High-Tech Informatics Center**

NKU broke ground May 28 on its new ultra high-tech informatics center. A month later, the university announced that a private gift from Griffin Industries would provide \$7 million in support of technology within the facility, which will be called "Griffin Hall."

Frank Muehleman, vice president and general manager, Dell North America Public Business Group, was at the groundbreaking. He said the center's impact will be felt for generations. "The Center for Informatics exemplifies how business and academia can partner to maximize the impact of technology on student learning and achievement," he said. "The Center's progressive model, coupled with a fully integrated curriculum and mobile technologies, will help prepare NKU students to compete and excel in a global workforce."

The Center will house some of the most advanced technology in the Midwest. It will feature a Computer Assisted Virtual Environment that will be available for businesses to use for product development. It will also boast a Digitorium that will be capable of running complex simulations in homeland security, computer security and financial security. The Digitorium can double as a Network Operations Center that will allow broad use by a variety of private and government sectors.

"The Center for Informatics will be a natural attractor to the community at large, providing a new venue for engagement," NKU Informatics Dean Douglas Perry said. "Companies can partner with our Infrastructure Management Institute to make use of our unique facilities to develop products and foster new business. Residents can come to be enlightened, enriched and entertained. Professionals can convene to enhance their skills and expand their network."



In addition to being home to some of the most advanced technology available, Griffin Hall will be the first "green" building on NKU's campus, designed for LEED Silver certification.

"SAP is proud of its long-standing, successful partnership with Northern Kentucky University, a partnership spanning more than five years," said Mark A. Testoni, president of SAP Public Services, Inc. "NKU has been a genuine driver of innovation among institutions of higher education. It consistently has brought its entire academic community the best practices and deployments of technology, business processes and value."

"To tomorrow's leaders I say this, if you are a high school student and you desire a career in an information discipline you should be submitting your application to NKU and packing your bags for Highland Heights," Muehleman said. "This is where you will get a truly cutting edge, applied education experience."