



NSF Grant Will Help NKU, Kentucky Math Center Prepare, Graduate and Retain Skilled Math Teachers

An NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help Northern Kentucky University and the Kentucky Center for Mathematics prepare more high school mathematics teachers.

NKU will select talented undergraduate students interested in mathematics education and prepare them to be fully qualified, well-prepared teachers who will teach secondary mathematics in high-need schools. In addition to the scholarship funding, these students will be provided with ongoing support during their early teaching years.

The grant, totaling \$897,690, will create at least 28 scholarships over the course of the five-year program for talented NKU students interested in teaching mathematics at the secondary level. Scholarships will be at least \$10,000 per recipient and will be available to junior mathematics majors who plan to teach at the high school level. The scholarships will be renewable for one year.

In addition to the two-year scholarships, the program will include an aggressive recruiting plan; opportunities for incoming freshmen and rising sophomores to engage in summer experiences to stimulate their interest in becoming secondary mathematics teachers working in high-need schools; an outstanding teacher preparation pro-

gram including valuable enhancements that foster a community of learners and expose participants to contemporary literature on, and effective practices in, the teaching and learning of secondary mathematics; and mentoring and coaching support for program graduates.

The program exemplifies the power of collaboration, with a project team that includes two NKU departments, the university's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, the Kentucky Center for Mathematics as well as the Covington Independent, Newport Independent and Cincinnati Public Schools.

"Increasing the number of well-qualified secondary mathematics teachers, particularly in high-need schools, is key to ensuring that students receive the foundation needed to be successful in college and the workplace," said Kirsten Fleming, who will coordinate the program.

Strengthening Libraries Across the State

Thanks to a million dollar grant from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, NKU is also working to expand online paraprofessional library programs and provide scholarships and technology stipends to 50 library staff members working in the commonwealth's high-poverty rural areas.

The grant will enhance existing associate and bachelor's degree programs and provide scholarships which will increase the level of education and leadership among library staff in 50 targeted counties in eastern and far western Kentucky. The programs will include Kentucky's compulsory online certification program, the online associate's degree at Bluegrass Community and Technical College and a new bachelor's completer program in library informatics at NKU.

"Funds from this grant will enable training for public library staff members across Kentucky and better prepare them for assisting library users," said Wayne Onkst, Kentucky's state librarian and commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. "The result of this grant will be stronger libraries that improve the quality of life in Kentucky's communities."

New Programs Prepare Chase Students for Fast-Paced Legal Field

Two new certificate programs at the NKU Chase College of Law will provide students with training in real-world practice skills and extensive interaction with practicing attorneys.

The Certificate in Advocacy and the Certificate in Transactional Law are tied to Chase's two Centers of Excellence, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy and the Transactional Law Practice Center. The centers are designed to make the transition from law study to law practice a seamless one.

"Knowing the law is not enough," said Professor Rick Bales, director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy. "A successful attorney must also know how to practice the law to effectively promote a client's interests and advance justice."

Students must complete a designated course of study, including classroom instruction and externship components, to earn each certificate. The courses and externships provide Chase students with the opportunity to focus their skills on the type of law practice they intend to pursue, and to demonstrate to prospective employers that they are practice-ready on the day they graduate from Chase.

"Students interested in transactional law will learn not only the law but the skills that are required to be a transactional attorney in today's fast-paced legal field," said Sherry Porter, director of the Chase Transactional Law Practice Center.

NKU Chase is one of only a handful of law schools in the nation to offer certificate programs in both advocacy and transactional law.