



Kentucky Center for Mathematics Helps Commonwealth Increase Mathematics Achievement on Nation's Report Card

When the Kentucky Center for Mathematics was established in March of 2006, the goal was simple - improve mathematics proficiency in Kentucky by supporting diverse teacher and student populations across the commonwealth.

Recent results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) indicate that the Center, which is housed at Northern Kentucky University and supported by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education, is working. For the first time in the history of the NAEP's data collection for individual states, Kentucky is now performing at the national average in elementary mathematics.

Commonly referred to as The Nation's Report Card, the NAEP was created in the 1960s as a tool for measuring student performance in a variety of subjects. Because of the large number of participants, this assessment has been called "the most representative indicator of mathematics skills in the U.S."

According to the latest NAEP, Kentucky is one of only eight states that had a statistically significant increase in 4th-grade mathematics scores from 2007 to 2009. Although the national average

remained flat, Kentucky gained 4 scale score points.

"We find much cause to celebrate this significant achievement of Kentucky's children," said Kirsten Fleming, director of the Center, "and are proud to say that mathematics matters in the commonwealth!"

In addition, the number of students testing at or above the proficient level increased by 6 percent during this period while the national average did not increase.

And while Kentucky scores have gone up, scores in surrounding states have decreased. Ohio and Tennessee dropped 1 scale score, Indiana dropped 2 scale scores and West Virginia dropped 3 scale scores.

Although NAEP results are not released for individual schools, analysis of Kentucky Core Content Test data for each participating NAEP school shows that from 2007-09, schools with an Mathematics Intervention Teacher (MIT) experienced an average increase of more than 13.2 percent of students testing at the proficient/distinguished level while non-MIT schools experienced an average gain of 6.9 percent.

NKU and Gateway Create Seamless Transfer Program

NKU is focused on a truly seamless transfer program with its sister institution in Northern Kentucky, Gateway Community and Technical College.

Northern offers a dual admission program that allows students enrolled at Gateway to take advantage of NKU's programs and services, establishing a connection with the university before transferring.

NKU also offers a KCTCS transfer scholarship. Students who have completed at least 36 hours at Gateway and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher are eligible for this \$2,500 renewable scholarship.

NKU also offers articulation agreements that ease the transfer of credits from Gateway to Northern.

Among the four-year public colleges in Kentucky, NKU has the highest three-year graduation rate for KCTCS transfers at 71.4 percent.

NKU Tops in Ky. in Percentage Growth for Baccalaureate Degrees

NKU is No. 1 among Kentucky colleges and universities in percentage growth for baccalaureate degrees awarded - up 57.9 percent over the last 10 years.

In 1998-99, the university awarded a total of 1,163 bachelor's degrees. A decade later, NKU awarded a total of 1,836 bachelor's degrees.

During the last decade, Northern has produced nearly 6,400 graduates in the STEM disciplines. And from 1998 to 2008, the university's enrollments in distance learning courses grew from 242 to 3,263 - an increase of more than 1,200 percent over the 10-year period.

In the three northern-most counties, the percentage of adults with baccalaureate degrees or higher has increased from 22 percent to 27 percent since 2000, effectively closing the gap to meet the national average.

The NKU International Education Center welcomes 18 education leaders from around the world this spring for a federally funded program that will, among other things, include internships at five Northern Kentucky high schools. NKU is one of only five universities to receive the grant.

