



NKU ‘Pathways to Nursing Degree’ Program Prepares Middle and High School Students for Nursing Careers

Northern Kentucky University’s “Pathways to a Nursing Degree” program explores methods in which the NKU College of Health Professions, area high schools and middle schools, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare can prepare middle and high school students for a career in nursing.

With Nurse Career Days and a Nurse Camp, participating students from a number of local schools come to the NKU’s Highland Heights campus to experience college life and receive an academic introduction to nursing. Students integrate into daily progressions for two days and participate in hands-on nursing experiences through simulation labs. During their two days at St. Elizabeth, students shadow and observe health care personnel as they attend

to patients and maneuver through various patient-care scenarios.

In combination with the mentoring experience they receive as they work with the professional they’re paired with, this exposure to the nursing profession is a valuable learning experience. The first stage of the program, titled “Pathways to Nursing,” began four years ago with the involvement of area high school students. More recently, the second stage, “Pathways to a Nursing Degree,” has incorporated the middle school aspect. The inclusion of middle school students, 6th through 8th grade, provides Kentucky preadolescents with an earlier exposure to the nursing field

and allows the NKU College of Health Professions continued follow-up with interested individuals throughout their formative high school years.

Further, the aim of the program is to extend this offering to more schools in the inner city and Appalachian regions, such as Gallatin County, Grant County and Campbell County. Through advertising and direct contact with school counselors, the NKU College of Health Professions continues to invite community schools to participate in Pathways to a Nursing Degree.

Thirty students came to NKU in June for the program, with many more interested but unable to attend due to program and hospital limits.

NKU CINSAM Hosts Academic Summer ‘STEM’ Camps

The NKU Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) is hosting a number of academic summer camps this summer aimed at the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

The camps provide fun and educational experiences that extend what has been offered in science and mathematics classrooms for grades six through 11 in public and private schools.

The camps cover a wide range of topics from “Fun with Science” to “Women in Engineering” or “Emerging Technologies.” Other camps offer experiences in mathematics and statistics, JAVA, network security and computers, and astronomy.

“These camps provide excellent opportunities for students to investigate interests beyond what they have been able to pursue in their normal school settings as well as experience working

with university faculty members in laboratories on the NKU campus,” said Betty Stephens, CINSAM outreach coordinator.

The emerging technologies camps investigate emerging scientific and engineering topics. Thomas Brackman, CINSAM’s physical science and pre-engineering recruiting director, leads these and the engineering camps.

“These camps are not only fun, but the topics and activities offered are strongly complimentary experiences to middle school and high school science and mathematics class experiences,” Brackman said. “The students have actual hands-on experiences with the experimentation; with the professionals on campus; and in the case of the engineering camps, with practicing professional engineers in the northern Kentucky community.”

DID YOU KNOW?

NKU’s new Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program will be offered at Christ Hospital in the fall as a cohort program along with the revised nursing administration program, now called Nurse Executive Leadership. The university is in discussions with other hospitals for cohort programs. NKU already has cohort groups at St. Elizabeth, Tri Health and Children’s Hospital Medical Center for the M.S. in Nursing and B.S. in Health Science programs.

