



GOLD RUSH

SEPT 2013

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



GO FIGURE



➤ **\$583,000**

How much more an NKU graduate earns on average during their lifetime than a non-degree holder.

➤ **23.3**

Projected average ACT score for incoming freshman class, up from 20.7 in 2005.

➤ **20%**

Increase in NKU applicants from fall 2012 to fall 2013.

Affordable
Colleges Online

HIGH ROI COLLEGES

affordablecollegesonline.org

NKU NO. 1 IN KENTUCKY FOR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

NKU has been recognized by AffordableCollegesOnline.org as having the greatest lifetime return on investment among Kentucky's colleges and universities.

The organization analyzed 114 Kentucky colleges and ranked 11 institutions based on their return on investment according to PayScale's 2013 College Value Report as well as other factors such as full accreditation, public or private status and four-year degree-granting status. NKU tops the list as providing graduates with the largest earnings difference compared to non-degree holders over 30 years.

"As we continue our strategic planning process, student success has been a central focus for the university," said NKU President Geoffrey Mearns. "One measure of student success is graduating with the skills and experience needed to launch a successful career. This ranking is an acknowledgment that we offer tremendous educational quality for current and prospective students."

AC Online consulted a series of highly respected, authoritative data sets such as those provided by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System in developing its state rankings. It also considered Carnegie classifications to represent and control for institutional differences and ensure for adequate representation of sampled institutions, students and faculty. It gathered salary data from Payscale.com. The organization also considered tuition and fees.

The full Kentucky rankings and other information are available at <http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/kentucky>.

COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

A new NKU online graduate degree program is designed to meet the region's need for highly skilled allied healthcare workers. The Master of Science in Health Science will enroll its first students in January, and the degree is available in a fully online format.

According to the healthcare career website explorehealthcarecareers.org, there are 5 million allied health care providers in the U.S. working in more than 80 different professions. They represent about 60 percent of all healthcare providers. The site emphasizes, though, that "this is just a drop in the bucket in terms of how many allied healthcare workers are needed to meet current and future healthcare needs in America."

The program provides the skills needed across a broad spectrum of allied health professions. Graduates who earn their NKU MS in health science might pursue careers in education and training in respiratory care, radiologic technology, or other allied health disciplines; management and leadership positions or; or application specialists for vendors servicing the healthcare industry. In addition, graduates will have acquired the skills and expertise to plan, develop and implement innovative and quality healthcare services. In keeping with NKU's focus of an applied degree, student will be required to take a semester-long internship in their geographic area and discipline that focuses on developing useable best practices for the industry.

KEN BOTHOF NAMED NKU DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Ken Bothof has been named NKU's new Director of Athletics. Bothof comes to NKU from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he has served as athletic director since 2002. His tenure at Green Bay has been marked by great success both on the field and in the classroom, as well as tremendous growth in support for the school's 16 athletic programs.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of this university and its athletics program, and we're excited to welcome Ken," Mearns said. "What he has accomplished at Green Bay is very impressive. He has positioned the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for great success both within the Horizon League and on the national stage. Our transition to Division I has gone more smoothly than we anticipated. With Ken on board, I know that our best days are ahead of us."

The NKU athletics department is set to begin its second year at the NCAA Division I level as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference. Last year's historic first season in Division I brought numerous highlights, including a 25-7 record for the volleyball team, hosting a Women's Basketball Invitational postseason tournament game and leading the A-Sun in men's basketball home attendance.



THE SCOREBOARD

The women's volleyball team saw unprecedented success on the court last season and was just as impressive in the classroom. In addition to its 25-7 record, the team posted a cumulative 3.72 GPA and earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the eighth time in the past decade. "The academics are what will get these girls through to their careers when volleyball is over," said head coach Liz Hart. "They approach that aspect of college with as much or more intensity as they do their game on the court."

BRIEFS

VIRTUAL CO-OPS ARE WIN-WIN FOR CAI

A unique new virtual co-op program through the NKU Center for Applied Informatics is paying dividends for students and local employers. Through the program, students work with area businesses creating problem-solving mobile, web and IT solutions. But instead of going to an office, they work on campus, getting the oversight and structure that a university offers. Students get experience, decent pay and access to potential employers; businesses get cutting-edge tech talent at an affordable cost and a chance to connect with potential employees.

READ MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_130819CAI.html

NKU STUDENTS TO STUDY LEADERSHIP, PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN COSTA RICA

The NKU Master of Public Administration program has partnered with the school's undergraduate program in organizational leadership to develop a joint course that will include a nine-day study abroad experience to the United Nations University of Peace in Costa Rica next spring. The course will focus on cutting-edge concepts in leadership, peace and sustainability. It will provide students with the skills needed to lead with a new spirit of cooperation and sensitivity to global interconnectedness.

READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_130718mpa.html

FACULTY FOCUS

Assistant Professor Jonathan Thomas was recently honored with the School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA) Early Career Scholar Award. Thomas teaches in the NKU Department of Teacher Education and also works for the Kentucky Center for Mathematics, which is housed at NKU. Prior to his tenure at NKU, Thomas served as a mathematics intervention specialist and worked with struggling elementary and middle-grade students. "My work in the education profession has been the most challenging and rewarding thing I have ever done," he said. "I am fascinated by the paths that children take as they come to understand quantity."

MPA STUDENTS BRING EXPERTISE, PASSION TO ADDRESS REGIONAL CHALLENGES

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recently honored Dr. Denise Robinson, dean of the Northern Kentucky University College of Health Professions, as a member of its second class of nursing deans who have successfully completed the AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program. This world-class enrichment experience is designed exclusively for top academic leaders in schools of nursing. The ground-breaking program includes 57 graduates from schools nationwide.

READ MORE: https://www.nku.edu/news/_130703robinson.html

NKU RESEARCH FOUNDATION PRESENTS BIOMONITORING FIELD CAMP

The NKU Research Foundation sponsored a hands-on assessment field camp on citizen-based biomonitoring this summer. Citizen scientists learned how to use technologies and assessment tools to supply professionals and agencies with credible data on the condition of aquatic environments in the region. The three-day camp provided the protocols and techniques to justify stream bioassessment and habitat quality evaluation. The group camped at Big Bone Lick State Park with NKU faculty and students.

READ MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_130611camp.html

ALUMNI NEWS



Whenever Cara Hannah Sullivan ('00) forgets just how lucky she has it, all she has to do is walk down the hallway to her office. That hallway is flanked on either side by the iconic photos of every person who has ever hosted *Saturday Night Live*. You see, for the last six years, Sullivan's office has been a 10-foot by 20-foot bowling-alley-like hair room just off the SNL stage on the 8th floor of Rockefeller Center. During her time at SNL, the hairdresser/wigmaker has received four Emmy nominations, including a win last year for Outstanding Hairstyling for a Multi-Camera Series or Special. "This is my dream job," she says. "It's got a little bit of theater and a little bit of TV and the whole world gets to see it on one night. And that's pretty exciting."