



GOLD RUSH

MAY 2016

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

1,615

Degrees conferred upon graduates at NKU's Spring Commencement ceremonies May 13 and 14

\$75K

Donation from the Duke Energy Foundation to grow NKU's STEM education training for middle school teachers

10

Consecutive semesters in which NKU student-athletes have posted a 3.0 GPA or higher



NKU FACULTY, STUDENT NURSES HELP THE UNDERSERVED

NKU's Nurse Advocacy Center for the Underserved provides aid to thousands of people at five clinics across Northern Kentucky - but it all began with just one student.

In 2003, registered nurse Marian Cummins was working at a local hospital by day and pursuing a master's degree by night. She took an interest in the issues faced by underserved populations in the community, especially those of women living in local homeless shelters.

With the help of her faculty advisors, Cummins came up with a model of care that would place registered nurses in shelters to aid homeless women and work to help improve their health. The nurses quickly learned that most of the women they served didn't have health insurance or even a family doctor, but were using the emergency room for primary medical care.

The first NKU nurse clinic opened in a Covington homeless shelter. Within one year, emergency room visits from the group dropped by 70 percent. Two more Covington homeless shelters were added to the program, and again ER visits dropped by 60 percent within just six months.

Today, NACU operates five clinics in the Northern Kentucky region. Volunteer nurses and students screen patients for medical conditions and collaborate with the Health Department and state of Kentucky to provide vaccinations.

The work goes beyond medical care: nurses also help patients make doctor's appointments, get medical ID cards, and connect them with other resources in the community. The program has received the Award of Excellence in Public Health from the Northern Kentucky Independent District Health Department.

COLLEGE CORNER

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

NKU's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) works to improve P-16 STEM education by advancing and integrating teaching, learning, and scholarship in the STEM disciplines.

New support from the Duke Energy Foundation will allow CINSAM to expand that mission into more middle school classrooms across the region. Duke and the NKU Foundation announced the \$75,000 gift to CINSAM's Next Generation STEM Classroom (NGSC) Middle School Program on May 19.

LEARN MORE: <http://cinsam.nku.edu/>



MORE THAN 1,600 STUDENTS GRADUATE AT SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Be fearless in the pursuit of your dreams. That was the message NKU graduates heard on May 13 and 14 at Spring Commencement exercises.

"You will make dreams come true for yourself and for others. After all, life is about making things. It is about making a difference. Pursue your dreams with passion and with courage," said NKU President Geoffrey S. Mearns.

Students and their families also heard from the Hon. John Gleeson, retired U.S. District Judge from the Eastern District of New York; and NKU alumna Regan Forman ('93), Vice President of Creative Strategy & Planning at Nickelodeon. Student speakers included Daniel Ginn, who received Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership and plans to pursue a master's degree; and Kadori Ngirabakunzi, a single mother of three who received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and plans to work as a nurse.

LEARN MORE: <http://www.nku.edu/news/160514commencement.html>

NKU NURSE THE SCOREBOARD

Cynthiana native Camryn Whitaker has been named head coach of the NKU Women's Basketball Team. Whitaker was an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky and, previously, at the University of Dayton. She helped lead the Flyers to a 79-18 overall record, two Atlantic 10 championships, and three NCAA Tournament berths, including the Elite Eight. She was also a standout at Harrison County High School and Western Kentucky University, where she led the Lady Toppers to 97 wins and five postseason appearances.

FACULTY FOCUS

The ability to bring two parties to the table and help negotiate a compromise is a skill that will never go out of style – and for NKU's Lou Manchise, it has been a lifelong passion.

His natural ability to skillfully mediate, put people at ease in high-stress situations, and help both sides reach a creative solution served him well during a 27-year career with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Agency. Today, he teaches at NKU in the hopes of inspiring the next generation of mediators and arbitrators.

At NKU's 34th annual Labor Management Conference on May 17, Manchise was honored with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his service and contributions in the field of labor management education.

READ MORE: <http://www.nku.edu/features/2016/may/lou-manchise.html>

BRIEFS

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS LAUNCHES NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

Fewer than 120 universities in the nation have a Nurse Anesthesia Program, but that number will soon grow by one.

NKU is developing a Nurse Anesthesia Program (NAP) that will help fill the local and national shortage of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). The 36-month program will culminate in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, and graduates will be eligible to sit for board certification exams.

Applications will be accepted beginning June 1. The program is pending approval by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

LEARN MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_160512nap.html

NKU, JCTC PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Earning a bachelor's degree is now more seamless, efficient, and affordable than ever before for students at Jefferson Community and Technical College.

A new partnership, JCTC2NKU, creates a series of degree pathways that allow students to complete an associate's degree at JCTC in two years, and then seamlessly transfer to NKU to obtain a bachelor's degree in an additional two years.

The program is modeled on an existing partnership with Gateway Community & Technical College. JCTC2NKU will launch this fall.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_160428jctc2nku.html

NKU OFFERS ASL COURSES FOR CREDIT

American Sign Language is the third most-used language in the nation after English and Spanish. And now, NKU students can take ASL courses for credit.

Students learn fingerspelling and basic signs throughout the semester. They also learn about deaf culture and customs, such as the appropriate way to get a deaf person's attention.

The instructor, Annie Welch, has 18 years' experience in ASL and deaf-related instruction. She teaches in an immersive style: Welch communicates with students strictly through sign language, with no interpreter in the room.

LEARN MORE: <http://www.nku.edu/features/2016/april/learning-to-sign.html>

SUMMER WORKSHOP INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO DIGITAL JOURNALISM

Interviewing sources. Shooting photos. Editing videos. Learning how to report news ethically. These are just a few of the skills that are key to multiplatform storytelling—and the future of professional journalism.

This summer, NKU's Journalism in the Digital Age workshop will host regional high school students looking for a head start in the field.

Throughout the week, students are introduced to the basics of interviewing, news writing, photography, videography, and journalism ethics and law.

LEARN MORE: <http://nku.edu/features/2016/may/journalisminthedigitalage.html>

ALUMNI NEWS

ERIC KELSO: SAVING A PIECE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

On July 3, 1788, a group of anti-Federalists gathered in a stone colonial house in central Pennsylvania and shaped the future of their country. Fearing that the newly ratified U.S. Constitution would centralize too much power within the federal government, they crafted 14 proposals believed to be the genesis of the Bill of Rights.

236 years later, NKU Master of Public History alumnus Eric Kelso ('15) came across a news story about the scheduled demolition of the building known as Bell's Tavern and knew he had to act. Kelso and fellow preservationists launched a grassroots fundraising campaign. They succeeded in postponing the demolition – for now – and are now trying to save the building.

"This is almost exactly what my public history degree is designed for," Kelso said. "It's not too often you get to be involved with something this important."

LEARN MORE: <http://nku.edu/features/2016/march/inside/saving-a-piece-of-american-history.html>

