



# GOLD RUSH

SEPT. 2016

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

2,902

Degrees and certificates awarded in 2015-16

360+

Kentucky high school students who spent the summer at NKU as part of the Governor's Scholars Program

2,700

Hours of community service performed by NKU student-athletes last year



### HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY

Northern Kentucky University's new Health Innovation Center took a major step toward completion on Sept. 8, when the final steel beam was lifted into place atop the structure.

Students, faculty, staff, University leaders, and community partners gathered for the "Topping Out" ceremony, marking the historic day by placing their signatures on the bright gold beam before it was lifted into the sky.

"It has been truly exciting to watch this new academic facility take shape on our campus, and we are pleased that students, faculty, staff, and our friends in the community joined us to mark this important milestone in the center's journey toward completion," said NKU President Geoffrey S. Mearns.

Scheduled for completion in 2018, the Health Innovation Center will be home to NKU's College of Health Professions and will also bring together experts from each of the University's six colleges to study health care from new perspectives.

The approach will combine data analytics, psychology, preventative care, and holistic approaches to help address population health challenges such as addiction and chronic illness. New academic offerings will include an addiction science program.

The project is funded by \$97 million from the Kentucky General Assembly and an \$8 million gift from St. Elizabeth Healthcare to create a two-story, state-of-the-art simulation center for students.

The project includes the renovation of Founders Hall, NKU's second-oldest academic building, as well as an adjacent new facility on the 2.2-acre site. NKU's partners on the project are CO Architects, GBBN Architects, and Turner Construction.

## COLLEGE CORNER

### COLLEGE OF INFORMATICS

In October 2006, NKU launched a grand experiment to bring under one roof all programs related to information and technology - journalism, cybersecurity, data science, robotics, and more - in order to study the "art, science, business, and technology of information."

In its first decade, the College's enrollment has doubled, programs such as cybersecurity and data science have won national acclaim, and COI graduates are snapped up by tech-savvy local and national firms.

**LEARN MORE:** <http://informatics.nku.edu>



## TEACH, LOVE, LEARN: NKU AIMS TO TRANSFORM ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

A new partnership between NKU and Boone County Schools is transforming elementary education by embedding student teachers in schools. NKU students take their core teacher education classes at the elementary school rather than on campus, and they are also embedded in the classrooms as practicum students and teaching assistants four days each week. The Florence Elementary/NKU Collaboration is the only project of its kind in Kentucky.

"It's a transformative way of providing a student-teaching experience," said Boone County Schools Superintendent Dr. Randy Poe. "Future teachers can practice their craft and receive immediate feedback from their instructors, and we benefit by having the latest and greatest research and expertise happening right in the classroom. It represents a win for the teacher and the student."

**LEARN MORE:** <http://nku.edu/features/2016/july/teach-love-learn.html>



## THE SCOREBOARD

The Norse have finished the four-year reclassification to Division I athletics and are now eligible to compete for NCAA championship berths. The transition to Division I came after a successful run at the DII level that included three national championships – two in women's basketball and one in men's soccer – as well as numerous regional and conference titles.

NKU student-athletes also excel off the court, with a cumulative GPA of 3.24 and a record 2,700 hours of community service last year.

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Missy Jones, professor of special education in NKU's College of Education and Human Services, has received the 2016 Frank Sinton Millburn Outstanding Professor Award.

Jones is the coordinator of NKU's Supported Higher Education Project, which works to expand access to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities. Her research focuses upon disability studies, including self-voice, self-advocacy, meaningful inclusion of disabled individuals, service learning, and reflection writing. On and off campus, Jones is an influential advocate for creating inclusive communities at all levels.

Awarded since 1970, the Millburn Award recognizes excellence in classroom teaching; course/curriculum development; scholarship and creative activity; and community service. It is NKU's top faculty honor.

## BRIEFS

### FORBES RANKS NKU AMONG BEST IN NATION FOR 8TH YEAR

NKU is again ranked among "America's Top Colleges" by *Forbes* magazine. The annual list ranks the nation's top 660 public and private universities as measured by the return students receive on their investment.

The rankings focus on student outcomes in five categories: student satisfaction, post-graduate success, student debt, graduation rate and academic success.

Rankings are prepared by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity in Washington, D.C. NKU has been included in the rankings since 2009.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_160707forbes.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_160707forbes.html)

### U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT AGAIN RANKS NKU AMONG TOP IN U.S.

NKU is again named among the top universities in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, which has ranked NKU 82nd among regional universities in the South.

The publication uses 16 indicators of academic excellence to formulate its rankings, including academic reputation, student retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, graduation rates and financial resources.

This fall, NKU welcomed its most academically-qualified incoming freshman class ever, with a median ACT score of 25 and a median high school GPA of 3.45.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_160913usnews.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_160913usnews.html)

### NKU LAUNCHES REGION'S FIRST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NKU now offers the region's first Emergency Management graduate certificate.

Developed at the request of alumni, the certificate is designed with the working professional in mind: students can complete the 18-credit-hour program at their own pace over a time period of up to six years and with a combination of online and on-campus courses.

It is offered through NKU's Master of Public Administration program, whose alumni include a number of federal, state, and local emergency management leaders.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_160623emergencymanagement.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_160623emergencymanagement.html)

### CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER EARNS LEED GOLD STATUS

The renovation and expansion of NKU's Campus Recreation Center has earned LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, making it among the greenest facilities in Kentucky.

The \$48 million project was completed in October 2015. A wide variety of sustainable features were incorporated into the planning, design, and construction, including: 80 geothermal wells that heat and cool the building, and landscape design and plant selections that helped reduce the demand for water irrigation by 50 percent.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_160616LEEDgold.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_160616LEEDgold.html)

## ALUMNI NEWS



### GROWING UP WITH NKU: LYDIA REICHARDT ('15) FOLLOWS THE FAMILY PATH

Lydia Reichardt grew up exploring NKU's campus, where her father worked as an administrator and her mother as a French professor. So it's fitting that Reichardt ('15) returned to campus to obtain a master's degree in business administration – and then ended up working on NKU's most ambitious construction project in its 48-year history.

"NKU pushes real-world experiences," she said. "In the MBA program, we worked with actual businesses, solved actual problems, and presented to clients. Professors don't want you to just make the grades. They want you to be a productive member of the business world."

Today, Reichardt is an assistant project engineer for Turner Construction and has returned to campus to work on the company's construction of the Health Innovation Center, the new academic facility scheduled to open in 2018.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://www.nku.edu/features/2016/july/growing-up-with-nku.html>