



# GOLD RUSH

FEB 2014 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY



## GO FIGURE



➔ \$800,000

Investment Toyota has made in NKU's Next Generation STEM Classroom program, which works with elementary and middle school teachers to strengthen STEM education.

➔ 647

Number of high school students enrolled in NKU classes through the School-Based Scholars program. The university hopes to enroll 1,000 students by fall 2016.

➔ 350

Number of Northern Kentucky middle schoolers who recently participated in the annual Middle School Leadership Symposium at NKU.



## NKU BOARD APPROVES FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The NKU Board of Regents has approved a five-year strategic plan that will guide the institution through its 50th anniversary in 2018.

"This plan, which was created by the entire university community, will build upon our existing strengths, while promoting further innovation and creativity," NKU President Geoffrey Mearns said. "But a plan is only as good as its implementation. It is the combination of planning and execution that will define our impact – and distinguish our university."

The plan, titled "Fuel the Flame: The 2013-18 Strategic Plan for Northern Kentucky University," focuses on student success both in the classroom and beyond graduation. It is the result of a year-long process that included open forums with faculty and students; a comprehensive campus survey completed by nearly 1,000 faculty and nearly 2,000 students; 20 meetings with external constituents to discuss regional needs; a stakeholder conference with more than 100 internal and external participants; and a website and online forum to facilitate a public dialogue about NKU's future. The process was led by a strategic planning committee chaired by Mearns.

A central theme of the plan is an innovative, transdisciplinary approach to serving students, the region, and the commonwealth. This will involve faculty from different disciplines working closely together to create new approaches to teaching and problem-solving through a shared conceptual model that integrates and transcends the separate disciplinary perspectives.

**READ MORE:** <http://www.fueltheflame.com>

## COLLEGE CORNER

### HAILE/US BANK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The NKU Haile/US Bank College of Business is one of the nation's most outstanding business schools, according to education services company The Princeton Review in the 2014 edition of its book, "The Best 295 Business Schools."

"It's an honor to be included again in Princeton Review's best business schools," said Dr. Rick Kolbe, dean of the college. "Our outstanding faculty continue to offer innovative programs that ensure our students are prepared for success both in the classroom and beyond graduation."

The book profiles schools' academics, student life, and admissions. In the profile on the Haile US Bank College of Business, the Princeton Review editors reported "Overall, students find NKU to be a place where

'The student is the top priority.'" Students are also quoted in the profile as saying that NKU's greatest strength is the course work itself.

"We recommend Northern Kentucky University as one of the best institutions a student could attend to earn a business school degree," said Robert Franek, Princeton Review senior VP-publisher.

"We chose the schools we profile in this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools," he added. "We also solicit and greatly respect the opinions of students attending these schools who rate and report on their experiences at them on our 80-question student survey for the book."

# NKU FOUNDATION ASSETS TOP \$100M



A milestone for the NKU Foundation, Inc., means more support for the university's students and programs.

The Foundation's total assets as of Jan. 1 now exceed \$100 million for the first time in the Foundation's 43-year history. This includes an \$89 million endowment pool and other funds the Foundation manages.

"We are fortunate to live in a community that understands the value of investing in education," said NKU President Geoffrey Mearns. "During tough economic times, NKU and the NKU Foundation continued to receive support from alumni, corporations, foundations, and friends that made us the major metropolitan university we are today. Without their help, we would not have experienced the rapid growth or success we have seen in the last 20 years or enabled as many students to pursue their dreams."

"It is a success that poises us for additional growth," said J. David Bender, Foundation president. "We couldn't have accomplished this growth without the prudent and skilled management by our volunteer Investment Committee and the work of NKU's university advancement division."

**READ MORE:** [http://nku.edu/news/\\_140106foundation.html](http://nku.edu/news/_140106foundation.html)



## THE SCOREBOARD

The NKU basketball teams are midway through their second seasons of Division I competition. The men are 4-4 in the Atlantic Sun Conference and have won six of their last seven home games. The women are 9-8 overall and 5-1 in the A-Sun. The men are led by junior guard Jordan Jackson (14.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg) and the women are led by junior forward Melody Doss (17.9 ppg, 7.9 rpg).

## BRIEFS

### CHASE LAW LAUNCHES ACADEMY FOR LAW, BUSINESS + INFORMATICS

The NKU Chase College of Law has approved a new curriculum for the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology, with the first courses being offered next year. The honors immersion program will focus on developing "Renaissance lawyers" for the Information Age. The program's specialty courses enhance the comprehensive legal education provided by Chase by emphasizing legal technology, business, finance, leadership and other skills critical to the future of the practice of law.

**READ MORE:** [http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_140114lunsford.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_140114lunsford.html)

### SEMESTER AT SEA PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE FOR NKU GRAD

NKU graduate Sarah Hayley Shaw spent her final semester in college on a floating university visiting Europe, Africa, and South America during a voyage sponsored by the Semester at Sea program.

Shaw, who graduated last month with a degree in environmental science, is the first NKU student to complete the program. She spent 107 days attending classes on board the ship and going on field trips in more than 10 countries on three continents.

**READ MORE:** <http://www.nku.edu/features/2014/january/semesteratsea.html>

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Brett Zyromski, associate professor and director of the NKU School Counseling Program, is working with educators across the country to improve school counseling in Kentucky and beyond. Dr. Zyromski, in collaboration with others at NKU and faculty from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, organizes the Evidence-Based School Counseling Conference hosted annually by NKU. The conference focuses on equipping professional school counselors with the skills to choose evidence-based interventions and the tools to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs by measuring the impact of interventions on critical measurements such as test scores, grade-point-averages, post-secondary going rates, attendance rates, office referrals and drop-out rates.

### ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL RECOGNITION

A team of NKU entrepreneurship students has earned the Best Chapter Business Award at the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization National Conference. The award honors the most creative, unique, and successful student-run business among the 400 schools in attendance. The team presented its apparel line, Punch Press Threads, which is showcases the interplay between art and entrepreneurship. The brand also spreads entrepreneurship across disciplines to help students raise money for various projects.

**READ MORE:** [http://www.nku.edu/news/\\_131120entrepreneurs.html](http://www.nku.edu/news/_131120entrepreneurs.html)

### NKU HONORED AMONG 'BEST FOR VETS'

NKU has been selected as a "Best for Vets College" by the Military Times Edge. NKU was the only university in the Northern Kentucky region to achieve a ranking and is one of five Kentucky four-year universities ranked in the top 50.

NKU was also selected by *GI Jobs* magazine for the fourth consecutive year as "Military Friendly," a recognition placing the university in the top 15 percent of all universities in the nation.

NKU supports more than 500 student veterans and their families.

**READ MORE:** [http://nku.edu/news/\\_131111veterans.html](http://nku.edu/news/_131111veterans.html)

## ALUMNI NEWS



David Moore (MPA '06) wasn't ready for what he'd encountered when, as a local fire chief two years ago, he agreed to teach basic fire safety in Nairobi, Kenya. The fire department there was protecting a city of 5 million people with two working fire engines, one ladder truck and 156 firefighters. Moore came home determined to make a difference. After resigning as chief in 2013, he founded the Africa Fire Mission, a nonprofit offering firefighting training, equipment, and resources to departments in Kenya and Ethiopia. The organization is working with 15-20 local fire departments, who have donated training equipment. And Moore doesn't intend to rest on his laurels. His long-term goal: to make fire departments sustainable across the continent of Africa.