



GOLD RUSH

FEBRUARY 2015 NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

3,000

Number of high school and middle school students President Mearns visited with during the Road to NKU Commonwealth Tour last Fall

52%

Increase in the number of students (982) participating in NKU dual-credit courses in local high schools since 2013

1,649

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



NKU INFORMATICS HELPS LURE \$20M ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN KY JOBS

Applied research and a transdisciplinary focus at Northern Kentucky University are paying dividends for the region.

The most recent example comes from the Commonwealth's 2008 investment in the NKU College of Informatics. The \$35 million state investment, initially matched with \$19 million in private and federal dollars, has helped to secure 200 new Kentucky jobs with an average salary of \$100,000, or \$20 million in annual payroll.

Last month, the Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) acquired Erlanger-based Wild Flavors. ADM had originally planned to build its data center in Chicago, but after learning about the NKU College of Informatics and visiting Griffin Hall, ADM decided to build and staff the data center in Erlanger.

"NKU's College of Informatics helped seal the deal," said Dan Tobergte, president/CEO of the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation (Northern Kentucky Tri-ED). He said the ADM investment was "in no small part due to NKU's expertise."

NKU President Geoffrey Mearns said as the University establishes a world-class Health Innovations Center, the same energy and return on investment should be expected. "We have a top-quality team of health care, business, and community advisors at the center of this important population health initiative," he said. "Our faculty and staff are eager to help improve the health of our region and the Commonwealth."

The bottom line, Mr. Mearns said: "NKU is laser-focused on outcomes that will continue to provide our students with the best return on investment in their education and create a lasting impact on campus and beyond."

COLLEGE CORNER

CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW

NKU has a new 3+3 Accelerated Law Program that allows high-performing students to earn bachelor's and juris doctor degrees in six years, rather than the traditional seven. As a result, students will be able to save on tuition and will have an opportunity to begin their careers a year sooner. "We are thrilled to be able to offer prospective students a professional fast track with an opportunity to save both time and money," said NKU Chase Dean Jeffrey A. Standen.

READ MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKU-3Plus3>

EXCLUSIVE NSA DESIGNATION PUTS NKU ON CYBERSECURITY FRONTLINES



NKU is the first institution in Kentucky to be designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense. The designation puts NKU on the frontlines in preparing students to face the cybersecurity challenges faced by businesses and governments daily. Only 51 institutions in the country have met the rigorous academic criteria to receive the designation.

The CAE IA/CD designation is a program of the United States National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The designation identifies NKU's cybersecurity program as a top-tier program in the nation.

"Our cybersecurity students are in high demand," said Dr. Kevin Kirby, dean of the NKU College of Informatics. "They have the ability to think critically in real time, and they are quick learners energetic enough to keep up with tools and techniques that change day by day."

READ MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKU-Cybersecurity>



THE SCOREBOARD

Last fall, NKU student athletes combined to post the highest cumulative grade point average since NKU began recording student-athlete GPAs in 1983. The 3.22 cumulative GPA topped the previous record of 3.15 achieved in spring 2013. This marks the seventh consecutive semester in which NKU student-athletes have posted a 3.00 GPA or better. Men's tennis posted a 3.712 GPA to lead 14 programs which registered GPAs exceeding 3.00 last fall, including five teams that set program records last semester.

FACULTY FOCUS

Before he graduated from Princeton with a math degree, before he programmed computers on Wall Street, and well before he became a beloved NKU Chase College of Law professor, Ken Katkin was in charge of one of the most respected post-punk/independent music labels of its time. From 1984-96, Homestead Records released albums by legends of the indie and punk scenes, including Sebadoh, Sonic Youth, Dinosaur Jr., Big Black, and Swans. For two of those years (1990-92), Katkin helmed the flagship NYC-based indie label, which—as many non-major labels still experience—was running on a shoestring. He later earned his law degree and practiced in Washington, D.C., before coming to Chase in 2000 to teach entertainment, broadcasting, and constitutional law.

READ MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/NKU-Katkin>

BRIEFS

NKU EARNS CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION RENEWAL

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected NKU to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification, renewing the university's 2006 classification. Transdisciplinary programs from across NKU's campus were considered, including the Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project and the Center for Applied Informatics, which draws upon student and faculty expertise to help organizations locally and beyond meet the challenges of the informatics age.

READ MORE:

<http://tinyurl.com/NKU-Carnegie>

NKU TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

In a move aimed at enhancing the educational experience of NKU students by making its arts programs more transdisciplinary and more efficient, the university is creating a School of the Arts within the existing College of Arts and Sciences. The new structure eliminates individual departments in favor of a more centralized model that will include programs, a school director, and faculty leaders who will help direct and manage curricular issues, day-to-day operations, and accreditation.

READ MORE:

<http://tinyurl.com/NKU-Arts>

SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS PUBLISH ON MAYERSON EXPERIENCE

Three NKU social work graduate students have published an article in a public engagement journal describing a class project that allowed them to invest in nonprofits in order to address needs in an inner-city Newport neighborhood. A number of NKU faculty members have published in academic journals on student philanthropy, but articles by students are rare.

READ MORE:

<http://tinyurl.com/NKU-Mayerson>

INKUBATOR GRADS TAKE TOP SPOTS AT 5 ACROSS FINALS

A pair of startups that have completed the NKU INKUBATOR program took first and second place in the fifth annual 5 Across Finals business pitch competition in December. The championship and \$4,000 grand prize was won by alumni Gary Darna and Jaime Rump for their presentation of CompleteSet; second place was won by Josh (alumni) and Jared (senior) Young for their company, Vegy Vida.

READ MORE:

<http://tinyurl.com/NKU-INKUBATOR>

ALUMNI NEWS



For much of this past spring and into the fall, Kpandja Djawe ('06), an epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was stationed in the middle of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa that has ravaged large swaths of the region. Djawe, who grew up in nearby Togo, Africa, was tasked with case identification and contact tracing – the detailed, often complicated work of tracking those who've had contact with infected individuals. The morning that Djawe was nearly killed began like most of his days there. He was up before 6 a.m., in a meeting by 7:30, and on the road at 9. On that sultry May day in the Guinean town of Guékédou—the epicenter of the Ebola epidemic—Djawe traveled the bumpy dirt roads for three hours to the village of Bamba...

READ MORE: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/NKU-DJAWE](http://tinyurl.com/NKU-DJAWE)