



# GOLD RUSH

APRIL 2018

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

46%

increase in men's basketball attendance

85%

increase in season ticket sales

382%

increase in Go Norse fund donations  
over last two years



## NKU STUDENTS VOLUNTEER DURING SPRING BREAK SERVICE RETREAT

Northern Kentucky Leadership Institute (NKLI) offered students an opportunity to spend spring break volunteering in the Appalachian community of Auxier, KY. NKLI partnered with Hand in Hand Ministries as part of its annual Empowerment Retreat.

Thirty students helped to rebuild three homes and completed projects like replacing flooring and dry wall, installing an accessibility ramp and digging a ditch to help with flooding. The students totaled 360 service hours from March 4-6.

"Those few days had to have been hands down one of the best, eye-opening experiences I have ever had in my life. Up until two days ago, I didn't know how bad poverty truly extended to here in the U.S.," said Roberto Amazendes, NKU student volunteer. "I was able, through this retreat, to bring joy and hope into not only the people we were helping, but to the people that were making this whole entire operation possible. It truly made me feel blessed and happy to be part of such an amazing organization at NKU that truly cares about the people that struggle in this world."

In addition to the NKLI retreat, the university's Office of Student Engagement encourages students to volunteer at monthly "Service on Saturday" events.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/march/180316NKLIServiceTrip.html>

## COLLEGE CORNER

NKU's Master of Arts in Education: Teacher as Leader program has been ranked 16th for best value in the 2018 "Best Online Colleges" list by SR Education Group, which ranked over 600 online programs.

Eighty-nine educators are enrolled in NKU's MAED in the College of Education and Human Services' Teacher Education department. Earning a MAED allows educators to attain Rank 2 teaching certification in Kentucky.

"Inclusion on this list shows high academic standards and a commitment to affordability, two key factors important to prospective students," stated SR Education Group.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/march/180326MAEDRanking.html>



## CYBER DEFENSE TEAM REPRESENTED KENTUCKY IN MIDWEST REGIONALS

NKU's Cyber Defense Team represented Kentucky in the Midwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition after winning the combined Kentucky/Ohio competition. Collegiate Cyber Defense Competitions stage multiple challenges that students must navigate. As cyber defense teams work to create and secure their systems, professional "hackers" are given the task to breach the systems and take them offline.

One factor that sets the Norse team ahead of the pack is access to a state-of-the-art training facility in the new JRG Cyber Threat Intelligence Lab. The latest addition to Griffin Hall is a combination of threat intelligence center and network cybersecurity laboratory. NKU worked with top corporate security professionals to create a real-world environment for students to get hands-on learning. The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security has designated NKU as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, a top level designation.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/march/180308CyberDefenseTeam.html>

## NKU NORSE THE SCOREBOARD

NKU's baseball team traveled to Lexington and picked up an 8-6 win over No. 6 Kentucky. Jake Richmond led the Norse by going 2-for-6 at the plate with a grand slam. NKU's first D-1 win was also against Kentucky in 2016.

## FACULTY FOCUS

Two NKU professors have been highlighted among the top food and water security researchers by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Kristine Hopfensperger and Dr. Kirsten Schwarz were named as 2018-19 AAAS Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute Public Engagement Fellows.

AAAS selected 15 scientists and researchers who demonstrated a clear commitment to engage the public on these issues. Dr. Hopfensperger is an associate professor of biological sciences and the director of the Environmental Science program. Dr. Schwarz is an associate professor of biological sciences and the director of NKU's Ecological Stewardship Institute. As part of the Fellows Program, they will spend a week of training in Washington, D.C., and participate in a year-long development in public engagement, science communication and plan implementation.

**READ MORE:** <https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/february/180220AAASFellows.html>

## BRIEFS

### DR. VALERIE HARDCASTLE NAMED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

NKU announced the Institute for Health Innovation (IHI), a transdisciplinary center that will further NKU's commitment to impacting population health issues. To lead the IHI, the university has selected Dr. Valerie Hardcastle to serve in a dual role as the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Executive Director for the Institute for Health Innovation and Vice President for Health Innovation. Dr. Hardcastle will guide the IHI to promote the transdisciplinary work of health innovation across the university.

**LEARN MORE:**

<https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/march/180306ValerieHardcastle.html>

### NKU RANKED AS THIRD SAFEST COLLEGE CAMPUS IN THE UNITED STATES

NKU is the third safest college campus in the nation, according to a new ranking by the National Council for Home Safety and Security.

The 2018 Safest College Campuses in America list placed NKU at number three out of 243 universities and colleges. The list is compiled using the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting and the Campus Safety Security Survey created by the U.S. Department of Education.

**LEARN MORE:**

<https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/february/180215SafeCampus.html>

### ANTHONY MIZE RECOGNIZED AS LOCAL LEADER IN EDUCATION

Anthony Mize has been recognized by WCPO-TV in its series "Next 9: Educators." Mize currently serves as the Interim Director of NKU's African-American Programs and Services. The "Next 9 Series" features the best and brightest minds committed to making Cincinnati great.

"I always tell students, 'Excellence is not a skill; excellence is an attitude.' And so, I hope that it encourages them to put their best attitude forward and to keep striving for excellence in their daily lives," said Mize.

**LEARN MORE:**

<https://www.nku.edu/news/2018/march/180328AnthonyMize.html>

### NKU KICKS OFF 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH HOMECOMING 2018

NKU kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration during Homecoming 2018 in February. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community joined the fun at basketball tailgates, Homecoming King and Queen coronation and NKU's annual Alumni Awards Celebration. The 2018 Alumni Awards dinner had over 700 people in attendance, the largest in history.

**LEARN MORE:**

<https://www.nku.edu/50.html>

## ALUMNI NEWS



### MARC BANKS FINDS PR SUCCESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

NKU Alumnus Marc Banks ('14) was recently named as one of the Huffington Post's "Top 25 African American PR Millennials to Watch." After graduating from NKU's Public Relations program, Banks followed an internship with Sen. Kristen Gillibrand to a full-time job as a public relations specialist for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

"I think PR appealed to me because it gave me an opportunity to still dabble in journalism—kind of be the flip-side of that coin—but also give me some business experience, as well as events experience and all that," he says. Also during his time at NKU, Banks interned at the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, where work advocating for minorities and underrepresented individuals fueled the passion that eventually carried him to Capitol Hill.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://inside.nku.edu/nkumagazine/2018/january/banksaccount.html>