



# GOLD RUSH

JUNE 2019

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

STUDENT RESEARCH  
AND CREATIVITY EVENT

7

Colleges involved

17<sup>TH</sup>

Year celebrating research

300

Student projects



## NKU HONORS OVER 1,700 GRADUATES AT SPRING COMMENCEMENT

NKU honored nearly 1,700 students at its Spring Commencement on May 10 and 11, 2019. Family and friends packed BB&T to celebrate the students' achievement in completing this significant milestone.

NKU's recently unveiled Success by Design strategic framework identified three pillars of student success—access, completion and career and community engagement. The framework also shaped the university's singular focus on advancing student success aligned with the needs of the region. Commencement brings the three pillars of student success together in support of NKU's mission.

On Friday evening, the Salmon P. Chase College of Law honored 132 graduates at their commencement ceremony. Erik M. Crew was awarded the Salmon P. Chase Award.

Saturday morning's ceremony awarded 722 degrees to graduates of the Haile/US College of Business, the College of Health Professions and the College of Informatics. Saturday afternoon's ceremony honored 867 graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Services.

NKU alumnus Garren Colvin ('96), the president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare, served as the guest speaker for both morning and afternoon ceremonies. Colvin was also awarded a Doctor of Business honorary degree.

NKU bestowed a total of 1,721 degrees during the 2019 Spring Commencement weekend.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2gxetvd>

## COLLEGE CORNER

The College of Informatics was recently ranked as a top university in Kentucky for awarding the most computer science degrees to women among state universities.

The Chronicle of Higher Education, an independent news and information organization, compiled a list of best institutions for women in computer science and engineering. The COI ranked 40th nationally, awarding 171 Computer Science degrees with 21.1 percent going to women. NKU also outpaced other institutions in the Commonwealth and region.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y65qdl9p>



## NKU WELCOMES BONITA J. BROWN AS VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

NKU is proud to announce Bonita J. Brown as its vice president and chief strategy officer (VP & CSO), tasked with campus-wide oversight and execution of the university's *Success by Design* strategic framework. President Ashish Vaidya created the VP & CSO position to oversee campus-wide framework implementation efforts.

"The *Success by Design* framework resonated with me and my work over the past few years and I look forward to leading the efforts to begin implementation," said Brown. "The excitement from the faculty, staff and students about the plan and Dr. Vaidya's leadership are the key ingredients to make this a success, and it will ultimately have a significant impact on the Northern Kentucky region."

Brown currently serves as the vice president for network engagement at Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit leader that champions evidence-based institutional improvement in community colleges across the country. In this role, Brown is responsible for supporting a network of over 220 community colleges in 41 states as they work to implement sustainable student success efforts. **READ MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y4wb8sbb>

## THE SCOREBOARD

NKU announced Darrin Horn as the sixth head coach in the history of the men's basketball program in April. A native of Glasgow, Kentucky, Horn played at Western Kentucky University from 1991-95. From there, he made assistant coaching stops at his alma mater, Morehead State, and Marquette before serving as the head coach at both WKU and South Carolina.

## FACULTY FOCUS

### Bob Wallace awarded UK Medallion

Dr. Robert Wallace was presented with the 2019 University of Kentucky Libraries Medallion for Intellectual Achievement in May. Dr. Wallace was recognized for his exceptional intellectual achievement and contribution to the lasting value of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Wallace is a regents professor and has taught English, literature and art at NKU since 1972. A Herman Melville expert, Dr. Wallace is co-founder of the Melville Society Cultural Project at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, where he curates the Melville Society Archive's art collection. A past president of the Melville Society, he has lectured on *Moby-Dick* and the arts across the country and around the world.

**READ MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2dg9q43>

## BRIEFS

### NKU AND ION/APEX SIGN PATHWAY PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Leaders from NKU and Ion/Apex, one of Greater Cincinnati's largest electrical contractors, came together in May to sign a partnership that will enable paid apprentices in the electrical construction trade to earn college credit toward a degree at NKU. The pathway program between NKU and Ion/Apex is a collaborative answer to workforce demands and plays a critical role in the rise of the electrical construction trade across the region. This partnership also complements the NKY Chamber's GROW NKY initiative.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y5wbx78a>

### NKU AND THE TLC LAUNCH THE SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS HUB

NKU, in partnership with the Tri-State Logistics Council (TLC), launched the Supply Chain and Logistics Hub to address a workforce need in the region. The hub brings together the Haile/US Bank College of Business' Global Supply Chain Management program and TLC to connect students' capabilities with industry jobs. The hub will develop students to fit industry needs through joint development of mentoring programs, internships and student-industry events..

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y5zjopyd>

### NKU WELCOMES NEW DEANS

On July 1st, Judith Daar will begin her term as dean of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Daar comes to NKU from the University of California, Irvine (UCI), where she served as a visiting professor at the School of Law and a clinical professor at the School of Medicine.

The Dean of the Haile/US Bank College of Business, Dr. Hassan R. HassabElnaby, and Andrea Falcone, dean of the W. Frank Stealy Library, will assume their new roles on July 15. Dr. HassabElnaby serves as the associate dean for graduate studies and research at the University of Toledo's College of Business and Innovation. Falcone is the associate director for education and public services at the Auraria Library, a tri-institutional library in Colorado.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2sxfqzg> // <https://tinyurl.com/y39fmhw7>  
<https://tinyurl.com/yxibgqoaz>

### NKU'S MAYERSON STUDENT PHILANTHROPY PROJECT AWARDS \$34,000 TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

Northern Kentucky University students awarded \$34,000 to 22 agencies through the university's nationally recognized Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project.

This spring, 364 students from 19 classes integrated philanthropy into their classroom experience. Students learned about nonprofits that serve the community and evaluated where to invest grants provided by local funders. Additionally, each class raised funds to support nonprofit organizations.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y46fy366>

## ALUMNI NEWS

### CHANGING THE CULTURE



When Brady Jolly ('14) was named CEO of Jolly Plumbing in 2014, most people expected the young executive to lead with an "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" mentality.

In his five years as CEO, Jolly has tripled both revenue and workforce and, in 2017, enacted one of the biggest changes in company history, expanding services to offer cleaning and restoration, property maintenance and event management, as well as venturing into real estate, under the umbrella of Jolly Enterprises. He's also built a digital strategy for attracting more customers.

"There is a stigma around plumbing, and I think it's good to be different," he says. "It's appealing to both employees and customers. That's how you drive performance and value to your business."

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y2gm9fzn>