



# GOLD RUSH

MAY 2020

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## VIRTUAL TECH SUPPORT

220

Laptops/Computers Loaned

70

New Wifi Hotspots

22

Professional Trainings Created



## VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT HONORS SPRING GRADUATES

NKU honored more than 1,800 graduates at its Virtual Commencement on May 9, 2020. The university's Virtual Commencement was the first and largest online gathering in school history.

The ceremony incorporated many traditions associated with commencement exercises, such as the official conferring of academic degrees and a student vocal quartet's rendition of the alma mater and performances from the student orchestra.

"While we know it is not the same as walking across the stage in a traditional ceremony, this option allows us to recognize the hard work of our May 2020 graduates at the culmination of finals week," said President Vaidya. "Congratulations to all of our graduates. I hope each of you feels a great sense of pride in reaching this milestone and best wishes in all your future endeavors."

After congratulatory remarks, graduates' names were displayed.

"These students persevered through difficult circumstances on their way to a degree. They adapted and stayed on track despite the hardships faced these past few weeks," said Provost Sue Ott Rowlands.

NKU also expanded its December Commencement to include graduates from May, August and December. There will be four ceremonies, separated by college, to celebrate the graduates from December 11-13, 2020. Additional details on ceremony times and dates will soon be available.

The event is available to [view now](#).

## COLLEGE CORNER

The Haile/US Bank College of Business has been recognized among the top 25 business schools in the world in the 2020 Innovations That Inspire Challenge by the AACSB International accrediting body. The Innovations That Inspire challenge recognizes institutions from around the world that serve as champions of change in the business education landscape. NKU's The Underground Agency, the only student-owned non-profit marketing strategy program that is fully integrated in college classrooms, received the honor for being a catalyst of innovation.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ybjgqpm9>



## MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND VENTILATORS DONATED TO LOCAL HOSPITALS

While medical professionals face shortages of critical resources to fight COVID-19, NKU stepped up to help two local hospitals, donating personal protective equipment and ventilators used for instruction in the College of Health and Human Services and College of Arts and Sciences.

Students use the equipment across laboratories, classrooms and simulation centers on campus. However, with NKU's transition to remote learning, the resources sat idle. Dr. Dale Stephenson, dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and faculty members knew there was a better use than collecting dust in empty classrooms.

"We are in this together, and we wanted to be proactive to ensure our region's wellbeing," said Dean Stephenson. "Our hospitals may not be facing a shortage today or tomorrow, but with the rising number of patients daily, it's important that our region battles this together." NKU packed up its five ventilators, which are critical to help patients breathe and gathered its inventory of Nitrile exam gloves, face masks, goggles and N95 masks. The personal protective equipment will help protect St. Elizabeth's employees against the spread of respiratory pathogens and infections. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/yclqk4qj>

## NKU NORSE THE SCOREBOARD

For the second-straight year, five NKU athletic programs have earned Academic Progress Rate (APR) Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA. Men's golf, men's track & field, women's cross country, women's tennis and women's track & field each earned recognition with the APR Award, which is presented to teams whose 2018-19 multi-year APR scores were among the top 10 percent of all NCAA teams in the respective sports. All five of NKU's APR Public Recognition Award recipients boasted a flawless multi-year APR of 1,000.

## BRIEFS

### NKU'S SAFE CAMPUS

NKU ranked 23 on the 2020 Safest Colleges Campuses in America list. YourLocalSecurity.com analyzed campus crime data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report and the Department of Education's Campus Safety and Security to compile its list.

"Incoming freshmen can feel better entering college when they know their campus has crime prevention measures and crisis management systems in place to ensure lower crime rates," the website stated. "Even better, NKU has a brag-worthy violent crime rate of 0.75 per 10,000 people."

### DATA SCIENCE PACES NATION

NKU is home to one of the most affordable Data Science programs nationwide.

The College of Informatics' Bachelor of Science in Data Science degree program was ranked third in Degree Programs Guide's Most Affordable Bachelor's in Data Science programs for 2020.

NKU launched one of the nation's first Data Science bachelor's degree in 2013. The program focuses on data analytics, mining and visualization to train students with the foundation needed to tackle exponentially growing technology and business industry needs.

**LEARN MORE:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/y9y9cfhuc>

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Mark Bardgett received the university's Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement across NKU's mission. Dr. Bardgett is a Regents Professor of Psychological Sciences. President Vaidya will confer Dr. Bardgett at NKU's Fall Convocation in August.

Additionally, Dr. Scott Nutter has been awarded the university's Regents Professorship, recognizing his scholarly achievements and contribution to the university's core values. Dr. Nutter is a professor of Physics at NKU. An astrophysicist, he has collaborated on several NASA-sponsored experiments investigating cosmic rays for the last three decades. These projects involve sending instruments into space, either on high-altitude balloons or on the International Space Station.

### VIRTUAL STEM SUMMER CAMPS

NKU's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) offers virtual camps to help kids explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) at home during summer.

CINSAM's Virtual Summer Camps invites elementary and middle school students to have fun, hands-on, educational experiences in their favorite STEM subjects. Camps for students in third through eighth grades can explore new topics each week through July. This year's lineup has students sampling forensic trace evidence, breaking out of digital escape rooms and engineering solar ovens for roasting s'mores.

**LEARN MORE:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycrd9hn>

### COVID-19: IN THE LAB

For Maggie Ward, who is set to graduate in December, working behind the scenes during a global pandemic has been quite the learning experience. The senior biology student's workload increased dramatically as COVID-19 spread across the U.S.

Every 24 hours, her lab team at Gravity Diagnostics, an independently owned laboratory in Covington, Kentucky, tests roughly 1,000 samples to detect the virus.

"This experience has truly opened my eyes and confirmed my job in the lab is something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life," she says.

**LEARN MORE:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yajy5efx>

## ALUMNI NEWS



### A CONVERSATION WITH WADE MILLER

Wade Miller ('11) never imagined he would be on the frontlines of a global pandemic.

Being a store manager for the Kroger Company, his work has changed drastically. He's working longer hours, providing support for his employees, and working with company leadership to make sure they are providing outstanding service to the community.

"Things just change so rapidly," Miller says. "There was no real plan of action for this. Every day we hold conference calls, gather new information and try to figure out how we move forward."

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ycepm5a8>