



# GOLD RUSH

FEB. 2019

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

NÝSA RESEARCH JOURNAL

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Students Featured



### NKU STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF VOLUNTEERED IN THE MLK DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NKU volunteers braved the cold to give back to the community on Jan. 21.

More than 600 students, faculty and staff participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Community Service. Hosted by the Office of Student Engagement, the community service day is an annual event to remember Dr. King's legacy. NKU volunteers performed service activities at 28 locations across Greater Cincinnati.

"The MLK Day of Service was a phenomenal way to teach my daughters to serve in their community. It was a fun way for the NKU community to give back," said Krista Rayford, NKU staff volunteer.

As part of the MLK Service weekend, NKU's Student Anthropology Society collected warm clothes, blankets, toiletries and food as part of their Warm the Homeless drive. Donations were delivered to the Welcome House of Northern Kentucky.

Anthropology students started gearing up for the collection by raising \$500 through a Giving Tuesday Facebook fundraiser and an additional \$100 through other fundraising efforts on campus. Collection boxes were placed in Landrum Hall and out in the community throughout December and January.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y8tugxht>

## COLLEGE CORNER

Dr. Lewatis D. McNeal has been elected to serve on the Kentucky Humanities board of directors.

Dr. McNeal will help set council policies, award project grants to community organizations and participate in fundraising to help the council meet the growing demand for its programs. Kentucky Humanities is a nonprofit affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. McNeal is the Assistant Dean of Administration, Inclusive Excellence and Special Projects, and a clinical associate professor of public health in the College of Education and Human Services.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y742szt9>



## NKU SCANS UMI, THE CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER'S MUMMY

NKU's Health Innovation Center used its state-of-the-art equipment to help the Cincinnati Museum Center produce new scans, images and replications of Umi, its Egyptian child mummy.

Students and faculty from the College of Health Professions performed xrays and a CT scan on Umi. The images will be used to 3-D print both the mummy's skeleton and amulets that surround Umi's body. The Museum Center's last scan and 3-D print were nine years ago. Given advancements in technology, curators were looking for more detailed images to answer questions about the skeleton, as well as durable replications.

"This is rare opportunity for my radiology students to take what they have learned and adapt it for archaeology. They had to maximize the contrast in the scan because there is no fluid or organs, and the skin has been preserved," said

Jason Applegate, assistant professor in the Radiologic Sciences department. NKU's public history students were on hand to observe the process and will discuss results. The Umi exhibit opens on March 22, and the updated amulet and skeleton replications will be included in the display. **READ MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ycqyptfl>

## NKU NORSE THE SCOREBOARD

Norse student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom. Student-athletes combined to post a 3.47 GPA in the fall 2018 semester, establishing yet another department record. Thirty-five student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA this semester, while 59 percent of student-athletes posted at least a 3.5 GPA.

## FACULTY FOCUS

### Federal Grant for Health Innovation

NKU's Institute of Health Innovation, the Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation's Entrepreneurship Council and St. Elizabeth Healthcare were awarded a \$731,250 grant to build the Northern Kentucky Health Innovation Initiative (NKY-HII).

The Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration awarded the funding through the 2018 i6 Challenge, a national initiative to create centers of innovation and entrepreneurship. This grant is one of 40 announced and represents the first time i6 funds have been awarded in Kentucky.

IHI Executive Director Dr. Valerie Hardcastle will help guide the NKY-HII in job creation and attracting companies and talent to the region. Matching local funds bring the grant's total benefit to more than \$1.4 million.

**READ MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y9b2k8b4>

## BRIEFS

### CENTER FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION PARTNERS WITH FEDERAL RESERVE

NKU's Center for Economic Education (CEE) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland partnered to bring the spirits of entrepreneurship, leadership and responsibility to local students through the fictional adventures of a young financier named Danny Dollar.

The partnership expands the program to serve 300 fourth- and fifth-graders in Cincinnati and Cleveland. The Danny Dollar Academy teaches financial literacy through the story of an 11-year-old aspiring millionaire and his successful lemonade stand venture.

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

### NKU AND UNIVERSITÉ DE RENNES 1 AWARDED EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING

NKU and its partner institution in France, Université de Rennes 1 (UR1), have received funding from the European Union for exchange student scholarships. The established exchange program with NKU was highlighted in UR1's proposal.

The EU funds will be distributed over two years, from June 2018-July 2020, with NKU receiving three scholarships. NKU has received three scholarships for two-month internships and one scholarship for a semester of study.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y72dcjmj>

### NORTHERN KENTUCKY RECEIVES NEW RISE PROGRAM ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT

The Northern Kentucky Entrepreneurship Council (NKYEC), a new collaborative of private-sector business leaders, has received a \$750,000 grant to emphasize entrepreneurship and innovation in northern Kentucky's economic development. The Kentucky Office of Entrepreneurship's RISE program awarded the new funds, and the NKYEC plans to match the grant with local dollars to drive greater results for the region.

NKU and Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corporation (Tri-ED) will support the council's focus on informatics, health innovation and logistics innovation. The NKYEC looks to establish an innovation cluster in northern Kentucky to highlight these centers of excellence in the region. NKU will leverage its expertise from the College of Informatics and the Institute of Health Innovation to support the council's focus areas. Once established, the innovation cluster will serve as a resource for the entire state and the broader region.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/yaovpw7x>

## ALUMNI NEWS

### HOME PLATE TO POLE POSITION



Ashley Brenneman Shirley hails from athletic royalty—her father, Marty Brenneman, is a longtime radio broadcaster for the Cincinnati Reds. But the decision to work in professional sports was all hers. "I wanted to be involved in sports in some way, shape or form," she says. The 2005 NKU Radio and Television graduate drove for academic success at the university, where dedicated professors helped Shirley discover the skills and passions that fuel her career today. Now the communications manager for the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Shirley found her calling at the racetrack rather than the baseball diamond. And though her father recently announced his retirement after 45 years with the Reds, Shirley's just getting started. "I love my job at Kentucky Speedway," she says.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y7pvdwnu>