



2014 President's Annual Report



OUR MISSION:

As a public comprehensive university located in a major metropolitan area, Northern Kentucky University delivers innovative, student-centered education and engages in impactful scholarly and creative endeavors, all of which empower our graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, while contributing to the economic, civic, and social vitality of the region.

In January 2014, I had the honor of announcing the new strategic plan for Northern Kentucky University. This plan, *Fuel the Flame*, will guide our University to 2018, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the institution.

As you will see in this Annual Report, we are making progress in achieving the goals articulated in our strategic plan.

In September 2015, we will conclude the expansion and renovation of our Campus Recreation Center. This \$45 million project will double the amount of space in the center, upgrade the equipment and exercise facilities, and help us maintain our ranking as one of the healthiest employers in the region.

Next Fall, we will also begin construction of our new Health Innovations Center. This project, which will include a complete renovation of Founders Hall, will enable us to offer a wide range of health care programs and integrate those programs with other disciplines, including informatics, psychology, and social work.

But the most important work that continues at our University is attracting and developing talent. Our students come from every corner of the Commonwealth and from around the world. Each student brings a unique spark of curiosity – and a desire to understand the world and to improve it.

At NKU, we aspire to ignite that spark into a flame – a lifelong quest for greater knowledge and understanding, and a passion to serve others.

As we anticipate the celebration of our 50th anniversary, I know that our future has never been brighter.



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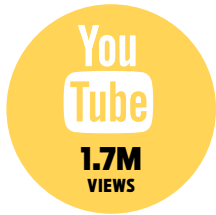
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Mearns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Geoffrey S. Mearns
President



Student Success

At NKU, students find a supportive environment, one where they can succeed academically, expand their knowledge, and graduate on time.



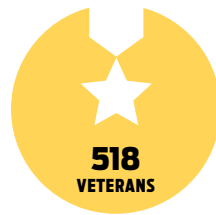
Douglas Gautraud, a 25-year-old junior marketing major from NKU, created a five-minute video called "My Mom's Motorcycle" that won the Peoples' Choice Prize in the Rode Microphones "My Rode Reel" international film contest. To date, his film has garnered over 1.7 million views on YouTube.



In March 2014, Chase College of Law students Erica Blankenship and Shaun Roberts were declared National Champions at the Wagner Labor & Employment Law Competition.



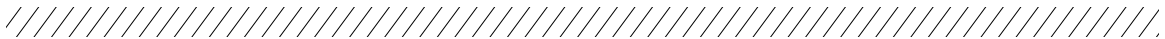
Now more than ever, our students are seeing the world. Last year, more than 300 students traveled to more than 26 countries to further their studies and develop a global perspective.



NKU was selected as a "Best for Vets College" by the Military Times Edge. NKU was the only university in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region to achieve this ranking. According to Veterans Affairs, 518 veterans and family members used education benefits at NKU in Fall 2013.



That means 'Return on Investment.' According to Affordable Colleges Online, NKU students receive the highest return on their investment - more than students at any other Kentucky state college or university. Our graduates are achieving their dreams and keeping money in their pockets.



Talent Development

At NKU, we are raising our own academic expectations, as well as those of the region. We serve more students, produce superior graduates, and promote lifelong learning.



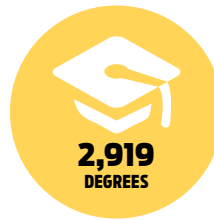
We have 26 partner high schools with dual credit courses: 982 students are participating, which is a 52% increase from 2013.



NKU President Geoffrey Mearns visited nearly 3,000 high school students in 18 Kentucky counties on his tour of the state, called the "Road to NKU". Stops included Somerset, Pikeville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, Paducah, Ashland, Louisville, and Lexington.



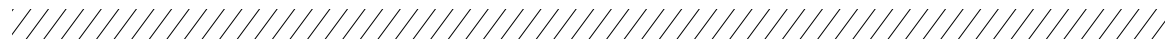
Dr. Dana Harley, an assistant professor in social work was part of a team that received a \$1.5 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant provides eligible NKU students a monthly stipend and tuition assistance for specialized training and field placements.



Last academic year, NKU awarded an all-time high number of degrees: 2,919. NKU has the highest growth rate in degrees awarded among Kentucky universities over the past 10 years.



NKU Professor and Kentucky Center for Mathematics faculty associate Dr. Jonathan Thomas was part of a group that was awarded a nearly \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant to partner with local elementary schools and develop programs to help their instructors improve teaching math to students.





President Mearns meets with students on the "Road To NKU" tour.



Griffin Hall, home of NKU's Center for Applied Informatics.

Academic Innovation

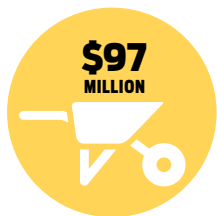
At NKU, students are learning like never before, and they are participating in programs that are innovative, distinctive, experiential, and transdisciplinary.



NKU received an excellence and innovation award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in regional and economic development. NKU's Center for Applied Informatics Virtual Co-op Program was honored for adapting the traditional co-op education model into an initiative that provides almost all services virtually.



About 750 students prepared posters and delivered oral presentations and other creative work at the 2014 NKU Celebration of Student Research and Creativity.



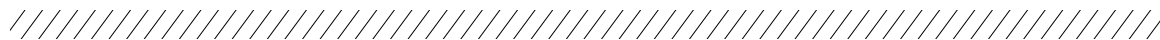
In Spring 2014, NKU received \$97 million from the state to build the Health Innovations Center, the largest state investment in a capital project in Kentucky.



In 2014, the university celebrated the launch of the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology. The Academy, funded by a \$1 million gift from Mr. Lunsford, will offer students the technological, financial, and professional skill sets essential to the practice of modern law.



Steely Library offers two professional education programs that cater to 500 students from more than 35 states. NKU received two \$1 million-plus grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to support students providing library services in the poorest Kentucky and West Virginia counties.



Community Engagement

At NKU, we realize that part of education is giving back. We engage with the community to make it a better place and to increase regional growth and vitality.



Northern Kentucky University is making a \$1 million investment in startup business supporter Cintrifuse to help develop entrepreneurship in our region.



The new development lab at the RiverCenter in Covington provides as many as eight students at a time with hands-on experience in a corporate setting developing innovative business solutions. Funding from Clear Measures is another example of its commitment to education in the region.



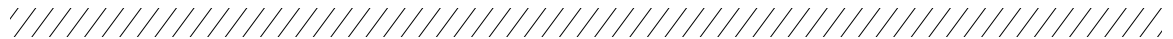
The NKU Mayerson Student Philanthropy Project awarded \$22,000 to 18 local nonprofits in Spring 2014. Every semester, select university courses named Mayerson courses are given a sum of money, and the students are asked to evaluate nonprofits and then invest in those they think will make the most effective use of the funds.



NKU's social work and counseling programs and University Police were awarded a grant from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women in the amount of \$300,000 to fund the Norse Violence Prevention Center. The NVP Center is aimed at developing and strengthening effective, proactive measures to prevent violence against women.



Our athletes are giving back to the community. NKU student athletes completed 1,649 hours of community service last academic year.







Newly renovated Norse Commons.

Institutional Excellence

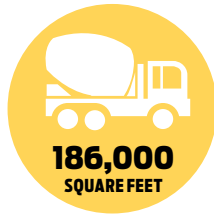
At NKU, we see a future of influence, passion, and financial security. We are preparing our students for the modern world, with innovative facilities and the opportunity to fulfill our mission and vision.



The NKU Foundation's total assets exceeded \$100 million for the first time in the Foundation's 43-year history.



NKU won highest honors in the national 2014 Professional Grounds Management Society Green Star Award contest for landscape beauty and maintenance. NKU was one of only two universities to earn the Grand Award for the Colleges and University Grounds in America category.



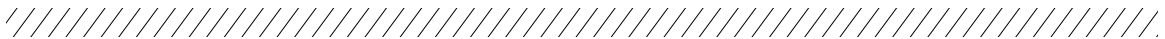
When completed in Fall 2015, the 186,000 square foot recreation facility expansion will serve as yet another hub for student engagement on our campus.



Last year, NKU experienced a 3% increase in the number of African American students, a 12% increase in Hispanic students, and growth in the University's LGBTQ programming. NKU also hired a Senior Advisor to the President for Inclusive Excellence.



With the opening of Northern Terrace in Fall 2014, 2,000 students are enjoying the full impact of living on campus, forging friendships, and making memories that will last a lifetime.



Go inside.



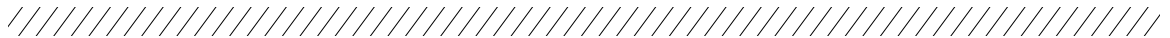
The Fiji Research Experiences for Undergraduates, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, takes students to the islands of Fiji to learn archaeology and cultural anthropology in a unique, applied, field-school setting.

Student successes are celebrated every day on InsideNKU, a platform that showcases the amazing stories of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members.

inside.nku.edu



Visit **annualreport.nku.edu** for additional information and a special video message from the President.



This publication was prepared by Northern Kentucky University and printed with state funds (KRS 57.375). Northern Kentucky University is committed to building a diverse faculty and staff for employment and promotion to ensure the highest quality of work force and to foster an environment that embraces the broad range of human diversity.

The university is committed to equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited. The university will provide equal opportunity to all employees in regard to salaries, promotions, benefits and working conditions and will monitor these areas to ensure that any differences which may exist are the result of bona fide policies and procedures and are not the result of illegal discrimination. **MC01350**



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