



NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2022 | VOL. 2, ISSUE 6

STUDENT AFFAIRS SPOTLIGHT

A Monthly Newsletter Publication of NKU Student Affairs

A FOND FAREWELL



FEATURED STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:

New Student Affairs Staff | 3

LGBTQA+ Year in Review | 4

Campus Recreation | 5

Recent Events | 6-8

Student Affairs Updates | 9

With another year in the books, we are so grateful to our staff, faculty partners, and especially our students for another great academic year. With hundreds of events in the books, Student Affairs was so excited to reach so many different students in so many different ways. Student Affairs is excited to bring another great year of connection, service, and engagement to our NKU students next year. This newsletter celebrates some of the accomplishments of the year and welcomes new staff as we prepare for next year!



As we close the spring 2022 semester, the Division of Student Affairs has numerous accomplishments of which to be proud. Over the past year, we have hired a variety of talented staff to assist us in providing the “Best Experience” for students that is humanly possible. Recently the directors within the division gathered for a two-day leadership retreat designed to focus our division on our most important asset, our students. We renewed our commitment to student development and discussed connecting these theories to our daily practice. As we go into the fall 2022 semester, our goal is to be strategic in the execution of programs and activities for our students.

The new team within the Center for Student Inclusiveness is diligently working to identify new programs and to improve mentorship for all of our marginalized students. The Center for Student Engagement will be focused on creating a true sense of belonging for our students, which is directly connected to the Strayhorn definition of a sense of belonging. Finally, University Housing and the Residence Life team continue to move the university housing unit in the right direction. Yes, new residential facilities can create a great learning environment for students, but it is the activities and engagement that we create within these buildings that truly create the level of engagement and sense of belonging that our students need and deserve.

As always, I’m proud to serve as the Vice President in Student Affairs for an institution that puts our students first.

Have a safe and restful summer and Go Norse!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Eddie J. Howard, Jr., Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
Northern Kentucky University

NEW STAFF

Welcome New Staff to Student Affairs



Emily Lobenstein, LPCA
Counselor
[Counseling](#)



Khalid Murray
Housing Assignments Coord.
[University Housing](#)



Nicole Jones
Academic/Billing Coord.
[University Housing](#)



Dr. LaVette Burnette
Director
[LGBTQA+](#)



Tara Arrasmith, MSW
Counselor
[Counseling](#)



Brandon Allen-Jolly
Asst. Dir. of Student Orgs and Programming
[Student Engagement](#)



Essengo Goz
Dispatcher
[University Police](#)



Cody Dorn
CRC Coord., Aquatics & Facilities
[Campus Recreation](#)



Allison Weihe
Intern
[Student Engagement](#)



William DeAtley
Officer
[University Police](#)

LGBTQA+ STUDENT INITIATIVES

The Year in Review with Dr. LaVette Burnette

LGBTQA+ Student Initiatives, a part of the Center for Student Inclusiveness, is excited to showcase our last year's accomplishments, our growing team and upcoming developments.

Led by the dynamic LGBTQA+ SI Coordinator, Mx. Alex Collins (they/them) our 2021-2022 AY, LGBTQA+ Student Initiatives hosted 18 unique programs throughout the year, including training for student organizations, hosted guest speaker Brandon Wolfe on surviving the Pulse nightclub shooting, showcasing talented drag performers, hosting our first in-person PRIDE Week, and Lavender Graduation since 2019, and many more! Within all our events, we had over 400 unique students attend our programming, have started re-launching two student organizations (The Gender Initiative & Colours of Pride), supported 3 active student organizations (Lavender Society, Friends of Dorothy, and Common Ground), began training for the relaunch of the LGB TQA+ Student Ambassador program, developed a sense of community through social media and online-engagement platforms, and provided valuable support for LGBTQA+ Students in Crisis through connecting them to both on and off campus resources to support their journeys of questioning and/or affirming their sexual orientation, romantic orientation, gender identity, and more.

In May 2022, Dr. LaVette M. Burnette (she/her) was named Director of LGBTQA+ SI. Dr. Burnette received her Doctorate of Communication from Georgia State University and Masters and Bachelors of Arts degrees from Western Kentucky University. As a first-generation college student, Dr. Burnette started her academic career as an administrative assistant to teaching communication studies in Florida, then teaching in Georgia. In 2021, Dr. Burnette transitioned from teaching to exclusively focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion work. In her transition into DEI, Dr. Burnette uses her extensive higher education experience, education, and ability to cultivate authentic partnerships to foster an atmosphere of belonging and a community of care.

Mx. Alex Collins (they/them) serves as the LGBTQA+ Student Initiatives Coordinator, housed within the Center for Student Inclusiveness, at Northern Kentucky University. Alex is a queer, non-binary student affairs professional with a love for leadership & community development, bylaw revision, parliamentary procedure, competitive cooking shows, volleyball, and penguins. Alex has graduated from the University of Cincinnati – Clermont College with an Associate of Arts Degree, from Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science – Mathematics Degree, and from Fort Hays State University with a Master of Science in Education - Higher Education/Student Affairs Degree.

Building on the legacy of support and action, LGBTQIA+ SI refocuses our goal to be **visible** on campus, **consistent** in our programming to **host identity-affirming** intended to build an atmosphere of **belonging and build community**. We will host our signature programs of monthly Flaming Discussions on various topics to offer a brave space to explore issue needed to build community. We look forward to our yearly Coming Out, LGBTQA+ History Month Kick-off, Trans Remembrance, World Aids Day and Lavender Graduation. Feel free to reach out to us at lgbtqa+@nku.edu for more information.

Norse Violence Prevention Teal Ribbon Award



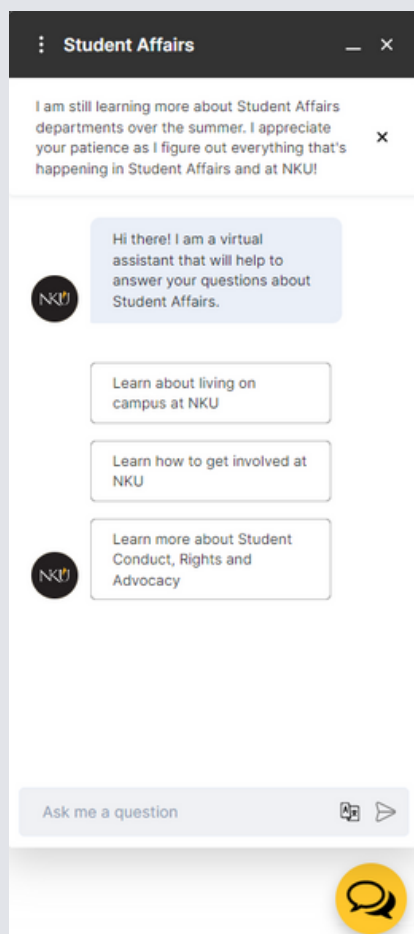
Norse Violence Prevention honored Quinn James, one of our student ambassadors, with the Teal Ribbon Award.

The teal ribbon is the international symbol promoting sexual assault awareness. As such, the Teal Ribbon Award is given annually to recognize an individual who has shown leadership and commitment to creating awareness and reducing sexual violence in our campus community.

Quinn has been an ambassador with Norse Violence Prevention for the past two years and will be serving as President of the NVP Ambassadors next year.

To learn more about Norse Violence Prevention, the work of the NVP Ambassadors, or to find resources and advocacy services for students impacted by sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, please visit the [Norse Violence Prevention website](#).

Student Affairs ChatBot



Student Affairs has rolled out a new feature across some of our websites. Our new ChatBot, Norse, will be available 24/7 to answer questions and help direct students, staff, faculty, and parents to websites that will answer their questions and make finding information easier and more convenient. Norse is currently available on the main [Student Affairs webpage](#), the [Norse Student Handbook](#), [University Housing](#), the [Center for Student Engagement](#), and [Student Conduct, Rights, and Advocacy](#). Throughout the summer, we will be rolling Norse out to more websites across Student Affairs. See if you can stump Norse with your questions!

CAMPUS RECREATION

Get Involved with Campus Rec

Welcome Cody Dorn, Aquatics Coordinator

Cody joins Campus Recreation from Miami University Campus Rec. Cody will be overseeing the Campus Recreation Center Aquatics operations and staff. Please reach out to Cody for any CRC aquatics concerns or questions at dornc2@nku.edu or (859) 572-5710.

Hiring Fitness Instructors

Campus Rec is hiring Student & Non-Student Fitness Instructors. Non-Students must have a national fitness certification. Join our team today! Contact Jimmy McMahon at mcmahonj3@nku.edu.

Summer Hours

Keep the workouts going this summer. View [summer hours on the Campus Recreation website](#).

Small Group Training - TRX Bootcamp

Small Group Training is back and we are excited for TRX Bootcamp! This is a seven-week course, starting June 9 through July 21, 2022. Classes will be every Thursday from 6:30p to 7:15p. Registration ends June 16, 2022. [Register online](#).



Campus Recreation is excited to announce our partnership with the [Skyhawks Sports Academy](#). Skyhawks will be hosting sports campus for children ages 5-12 years old in the Campus Rec Center facilities starting in July. Spots are limited. Sign up today! [View more information online](#).

2022 Summer Camps

Camp	Dates	Days of the Week	Time	Ages	Location	Price
Mini-Hawk (Baseball, Basketball, & Soccer)	7/18-7/22	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9:00am - 12:00pm	5-9	NKU IM Field Complex	\$149
Beginning Golf	7/18-7/22	M, Tu, W, Th, F	1:00pm - 4:00pm	5-9	NKU IM Field Complex	\$149
Basketball Camp	7/25-7/29	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9:00am - 12:00pm	6-12	NKU Campus Rec Center	\$149
Soccer Camp	8/1 - 8/5	M, Tu, W, Th, F	9:00am - 12:00pm	6-12	NKU IM Field Complex	\$149



RECENT EVENTS

IDEA Summit

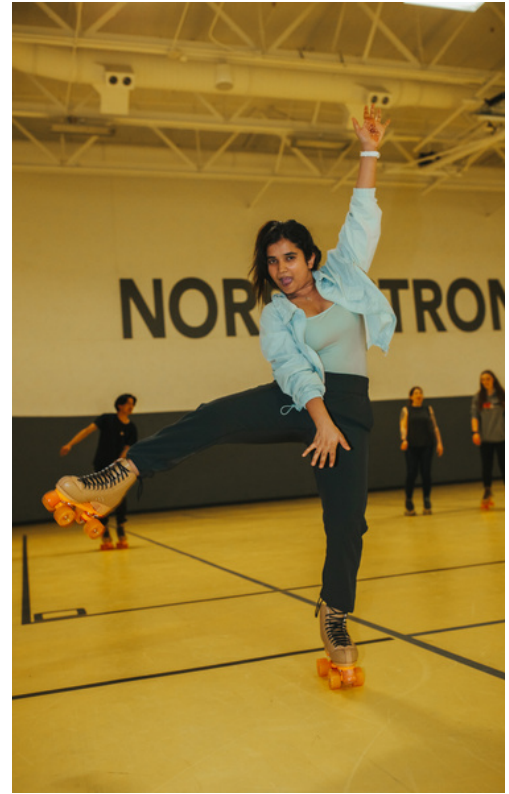
The Division of Student Affairs, participated in the first IDEA summit sponsored by the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Eddie Howard lead a panel discussion with a select panel of key employers in the area. The title of the panel discussion was "All Hands on Deck: Removing Barriers to Employment." The panel discussed the current pipeline of employees and how employers can stretch themselves culturally, to curate sustainable welcoming environments that boost retention rates and lower employee turnover. This is just one example of how the Division of Student Affairs continues to be regionally engaged in the area.



RECENT EVENTS

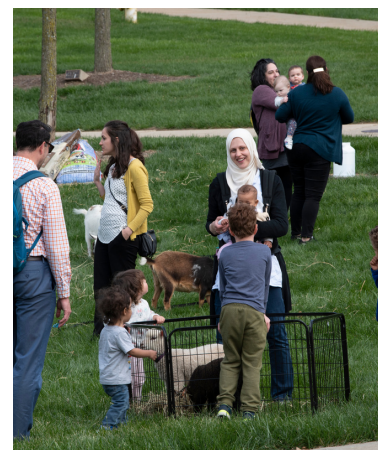
Rec Your Final with Campus Recreation

Designed to help students relieve stress before finals, Rec Your Final consisted of three events, including a Skate Night, Massage Chair massages, and a visit by a Therapy Bunny.



Family Day with Parents Attending College

On April 28, 2022, Parents Attending College hosted their first Family Day event for all NKU students, faculty, staff, and their children. At the event, families were invited to participate in a campus-wide scavenger hunt, highlighting Steely Library, Campus Rec, Fuel NKU, Care Closet, and OneStop. Back the sign-in table, families visited with farm animals and played outside games. The event was hosted as a collaboration with Parents Attending College, CCAMPIS, ALPS, and Common Experience.



RECENT EVENTS

SHEREHE

The Annual Sherehe Black Graduate Ceremony took place on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 6:00p in the Student Union Ballroom. Sherehe means "Celebration" in Swahili. Sherehe is an opportunity to provide African and African American graduates with a more intimate and African-centered means of recognizing and honoring their achievement amongst a community of peers, family and friends. We had 57 graduates register which included Bachelors, Masters, and Juris Doctorate Degrees. Though the ceremony was at the exact same time as the Chase College of Law Commencement, we still acknowledged and celebrated those graduates, as well. There were more than 300 supporters in attendance and the program was filled with amazing performances, words of encouragement, graduate reflections, singing, dancing, music and more. Greg Moore, African American Student Initiatives Director shared, "The community truly came out to support this annual event and we are proud of the feedback we are still receiving. I remember being in the exact same seat as these graduates and I want them to know we truly value them here at NKU." Current students served as event volunteers and are looking forward to their graduation based on this event alone. Several alumni shared that they wish they could have a "Sherehe do over" because it was so fun.



Student Affairs Updates

Health, Counseling, & Student Wellness

Congratulations to Amy Clark on graduating as a WILD woman! Amy was chosen by NKU to participate in this professional development program designed to support and advance women in academic and administrative leadership positions in higher education. She, along with other women from NKU and nearby universities, participated in eight interactive and informative workshops focused on enhancing leadership, networking, and overall wellness.



Amy Clark, LPCC-S
Director of Counseling Services
Northern Kentucky University

"One of the most impactful takeaways for me was feeling a sense of universality and understanding I am not alone in this journey. I felt uplifted and encouraged to continue learning and growing, both as a person and as a professional. I thoroughly enjoyed the panel discussions when we were able to talk to various women about their career paths. I learned from their experiences and fresh perspectives."

Con"grad"ulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Siobhan Ryan-Perry on completing her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.)!



FreshStart

FreshStart is a leadership retreat for incoming students who live on campus. It is hosted by NKLI and takes place August 16-18, 2022. This retreat is an interactive experience that allows students to develop their leadership skills, learn about campus resources, and build connections and friendships before classes start with early move-in. Limited spots are available. Applications can be submitted on [Presence](#).



Contact Us