

THE NKU ACADEMIC ADVISING COUNCIL PRESENTS:

**2026 OUTSTANDING
ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND MASTER
ADVISOR CERTIFICATION**

Awards Ceremony

May 6 , 2026



THE NKU ADVISING COUNCIL

The purpose of the NKU Advising Council is to provide opportunities for training, networking and communication among advisors throughout the university and to disseminate information about university programs, policies and procedures that impact the function of advising. The Advising Council is not a policy-making body, although it may at times discuss, review and make recommendations about policies related to advising. The Advising Council has no authority to enact policy.



PROGRAM

Remarks from NKU Senior Andrea Saavedra Ferreira

Welcome from Rebecca Hamm, AVP for Student Success

Recognition of Master Advisor Committee

Master Advisor Program Review

- Recognition of 2026 Master Advisors
- Recognition of Master Advisor Renewals
- Recognition of 2026 Senior Master Advisor
- Announcement of 2026-27 Senior Master Advisor Candidate

Presentation of Rising Star Award

Presentation of Advising Innovation Award

Presentation of Friend of Advising Award

Recognition of 2026 Outstanding Advisor Awards Selection Committee

Remarks from Provost Dr. Diana McGill

Presentation of 2026 Outstanding Advisor Awards

Closing remarks from Mike Irvin

THE MASTER ADVISOR PROGRAM

The Master Advisor Program was established in 2002 under the leadership of the NKU Advising Council. The goal of the program is to create a core of highly skilled advisors who provide high quality academic advising to support new and continuing NKU students. The program offers resources to faculty and staff advisors regarding basic and advanced advising strategies and techniques, legal issues related to advising, the technologies associated with advising, academic policies and specific curriculum requirements.

2026 MASTER ADVISORS

Amanda Andrews
Rachael Bragg
Kevin Corea
Jamie Kohls
Lisa McElfresh

Brittany Taylor
Dominic Toledo Sanchez
Cara Wagner
Alex Walz

2026 MASTER ADVISOR RENEWALS

Kelly Craig
Kyle Dorriere
Mark Dvornak
Shelly Goldfarb
Toby Hill
Megan Larkin
Dana Lehrter
Tom Liauba

Aprile Redden
Rebekah Richardson
Mike Ruwe
Jill Snider
Jen Ungerleider
Terkerah Washington
Susan Watson

2026 SENIOR MASTER ADVISOR

Lisa Brun

Also recognizing...

RISING STAR

The Rising Star Award was established to recognize advisors who have been advising for fewer than three years. Advisors recognized as Rising Stars have made a significant, positive impact on their students, in their office, and in the university community.

ADVISING INNOVATION AWARD

The Advising Innovation Award was established to recognize an advising professional or team who has implemented a creative, "outside-the-box" approach that meaningfully improved advising practice, effectiveness, efficiency, or student success.

FRIEND OF ADVISING AWARD

The Friend of Advising Award was established to recognize an individual (or group) who works closely with advisors and supports advising initiatives in an outstanding way. The Friend of Advising Award celebrates individuals who do not have traditional advising caseloads but impact advising and student success significantly.

ADVISORS NOMINATED for OUTSTANDING ADVISOR

Alexis Draut	Emma Kramer	Lauren Elliott	Staci Hunt
Alyssa Morgan	Gwen Fields	LeShauna Persley	Steven Donnally
Amanda Dempsey	Hannah Ledford	Lisa Brun	Susan Watson
Amanda Johnston	Heleen Giesbers*	Lisa McElfresh	Tinley Daniel
Amy Racke	Jamie Kohls	Lynn Crane	Toby Hill
Betty Russell	Jasmine Smart	Mark Dvornak	Tom Liauba
Britney Woodhull-Smith	Jennifer Boblitt-Johnson	Megan Larkin	Wendy Schindler
Candice Van Loveren Geis	Jen Davis*	Melissa Beale	Whitney Jorgensen
Cara Wagner	Jen Ungerleider	Michael Guy	
Casey Thompson	Jessica Ferguson	Mike Ruwe	
Catie Shelton	Jill Liebisch	Nicolette Meade	
Dan Ginn	Jillian Snider	Paige Long	
Dana Lehrter	Joan Brummer	PJ Ball	
David Kime	KC Russell	Rachael Bragg	
David Sandmann	Kara Thompson	Rebekah Richardson	
Dominic Toledo	Kel Smith	Samantha Esche	
Dyane Foltz	Kelly Craig*	Sarah Rodriguez	
Ed Thornton*	Kristi Ahrens	Shelly Goldfarb	
Emma Bernardi			

*Denotes Finalist

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD

YEAR	PRIMARY ROLE	SECONDARY ROLE
2002	JANIS CASSIERE	DR. JAMES THOMAS DR.
2003	MARY HUENING	SAMUEL ZACHARY
2004	DAVID KIME	JODI FERNER
2005	DIXIE LEATHER	DR. MEI MEI BURR
2006	JENNY WAGNER	DR. SEAN FOLEY
2007	SALLIE PARKER LOTZ	DR. DAVID DUNEVANT
2008	LINDA ALBERT	SUZANNE DE LUCA
2009	AMY RACKE	CARON MARTIN
2010	MARK MILLER	APRILE CONRAD-REDDEN
2011	CANDICE VAN LOVEREN GEIS	DR. DOUGLAS HUME
2012	PATSY FISK	ANDREA CORNUELLE
2013	MEGAN DOWNING	LAURA PADOLIK
2014	SHANE TALBOTT	CAROLINE BRADEN
2015	FRANK ROBINSON	MELODY MCMILLAN
2016	JOSH BRITTINGHAM* REBECCA WALKER*	DIANA MCGILL
2017	DEBORAH HENRY	DEBRA MEYERS
2018	LYNN CRANE* REBEKAH RICHARDSON*	AMANDA KILMER
2019	JESSICA FERGUSON	JULIA BEDELL
2020	SARAH CONWELL	JUDY VOELKER
2021	AMANDA LASKOWSKI* KARA THOMPSON*	AMY PIEPER
2022	LESHAUNA PERSLEY* JENNIFER UNGERLEIDER*	AMY RACKE * <i>Co-award winners</i>
2023	JOAN BRUMMER ANNA STRYKER	
2024	PJ BALL JILL SNIDER	

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD (CONT.)

YEAR	
2025	LISA BRUN CASEY THOMPSON

2026 OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ADVISOR AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

JOETTA BROWNING, College of Education
 LYNN CRANE, Biological Sciences
 JESSICA FERGUSON, College of Business
 STACI HUNT, College of Health and Human Services
 KIM MCCOY, Adult Transfer Center (ATC)
 CASEY THOMPSON, First Year Student Success Hub
 KARA THOMPSON, College of Informatics

2025-2026 MASTER ADVISOR COMMITTEE

LYNN CRANE, Biological Sciences
 MARK DVORNAK, First Year Student Success Hub
 STACI HUNT, College of Health and Human Services
 MIKE IRVIN, Coordinator of Student Support and Technology
 MIKE RUWE, English
 WENDY SCHINDLER, Student Support Services (TRIO)
 KARA THOMPSON, College of Informatics



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