



GOLD RUSH

JAN. 2023

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

2,000

Approximate number of
fall 2022 graduates

336

First-generation college graduates

222

Underrepresented minority learners



NKU, GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS COLLABORATE TO OPEN GBS TECH AND INNOVATION CENTER

Northern Kentucky University, in partnership with Global Business Solutions, officially opened the GBS Tech and Innovation Center in November with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in NKU's Campbell Hall, the site of the center.

By opening an on-campus extension of their Newport-based headquarters, GBS is doubling down on its commitment to provide NKU students with real-world experience, top-of-class information technology (IT), cybersecurity and sales & marketing training. The GBS Tech and Innovation Center will be a training ground for NKU's cybersecurity and IT students. Through paid internship positions, students will gain the IT-based software, hardware and client-support knowledge Greater Cincinnati's technology jobs require.

GBS founder, Gaby Batshoun, is an NKU alumnus from the Class of 1992. He founded GBS in 1994 to put his passion for IT and cybersecurity into practice—serving the small and mid-sized firms here in the Cincinnati region. Mr. Batshoun was also featured in the latest issue of NKU Magazine.

"NKU has always been close to my heart, and I want to give back and show the students that if you work hard and if you put in the effort, you can achieve all kind of things," Batshoun said. "My vision was always how can we invest more in our area and regional needs to make sure that we prepare these students for real world applications but also keep them in our area and invest in our area and help make it a better place to live. The GBS Tech and Innovation Center will help us achieve that vision."

The GBS Tech and Innovation Center is just the latest example of NKU's commitment to excellence in innovation and real-world experience for our students. Earlier in 2022, NKU opened the Verst Logistics Hub for Supply Chain Excellence, which allows students and alumni an opportunity to connect and engages with businesses involved in the growing field of supply chain management. NKU also opened the Western & Southern Contact Center in March 2022, which provides an employment opportunity for students in conjunction with a partnership with Western & Southern.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/29ckh5ve>

COLLEGE CORNER

NKU announced in December that Dr. Dale Stephenson, NKU's dean of the College of Health and Human Services since 2018, retired at the end of the fall 2022 semester. Beginning in the spring 2023 semester, Dr. Gannon Tagher began her service as interim dean.

Before taking on the interim dean role, Dr. Tagher served NKU as the assistant vice provost for advising and first-year experience. Dr. Tagher was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the new First-Year Student Success Hub, which opened in spring of 2022.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ysyftj2w>

**REAL AMBITION
REAL SUCCESS**



NKU RAISES OVER \$84 MILLION IN MOST SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY

NKU recently concluded *Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU*, ending with more than \$84.5 million raised. NKU began raising funds for this campaign in July 2014, launching the campaign publicly in the spring of 2019. Despite having to navigate the final years of this fundraising campaign during a global pandemic, at its conclusion, this marks the most successful giving campaign in NKU history. The \$84,831,967 raised during the campaign greatly exceeded the initial goal of the campaign of \$75 million. Through 18,446 individual donors, the campaign was able to fund 137 new endowments, 197 scholarships, 15 new faculty endowments and much more across NKU's campus.

The original goal of the *Further, Faster* campaign was to raise at least \$25 million for each pillar of Success by Design. In total, \$22,778,898 was raised for access, \$28,011,444 was raised for completion, and \$34,041,625 was raised for career and community engagement. Access funds are providing scholarships to break down the financial barrier to higher education and putting higher education within reach for more students than ever before. Completion funds are advancing retention efforts such as advising programs, faculty endowments and other student support initiatives. Career and community engagement funds will ensure students have opportunities for a seamless transition to the workforce, as well as support NKU's engagement programs throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. Gifts to this campaign came in from across the country and beyond. Donations were made from individuals in all 50 states, ranging in size and engaging donors from various backgrounds. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/bzsmxe54>



THE SCOREBOARD

In a game that will go down in Northern Kentucky Athletics history, the Norse men's basketball team took down Cincinnati, 64-51, in a cross-town rivalry clash at Truist Arena on Nov. 16. In front of a record-breaking 8,503 fans in attendance, NKU defeated UC for the first time in school history.

NKU finished the game shooting 51.1 percent from the field and 54.5 from beyond the arc. The Norse held UC to just 11 points in the second half, a NKU NCAA DI record for fewest points allowed in a half.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/2nrfbtf>

BRIEFS

NKU ANNOUNCES ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. ANDREWS GEORGIAN UNIVERSITY

NKU entered into a partnership with St. Andrews Georgian University (SANGU) in Tbilisi, Georgia, that establishes a dual-degree master's program in cybersecurity for students of the Georgian university.

Students will complete 30 credit hours in NKU's accelerated online cybersecurity program followed by 30 additional credit hours in person at SANGU. Students will also spend two-to-three weeks at NKU's Highland Heights campus to learn from NKU faculty and visit area businesses, while NKU faculty members will also spend two-to-three weeks in Tbilisi to teach and interact with students.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9kv2zs>

2023 ALUMNI AWARDS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

NKU announced its 2023 Alumni Awards recipients as Tom Wiedemann, Maria M. Reynolds, Jeff Jordan, Kayla D. Pecchioni and Robert Wallace. They will be honored at the Alumni Awards Dinner and Celebration on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

"The impact of these esteemed alumni and faculty member on campus and in the community is immeasurable, and we are grateful for their continued support of NKU's values and mission of being a student-focused, regionally engaged university," shared Eric Gentry, NKU vice president of university advancement.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yk9kku35>

FACULTY FOCUS

A new documentary on sports rivalry featuring NKU Professor Dr. Joe Cobbs is airing locally on Bally Sports Ohio and Star 64. The documentary is based on the research from the Know Rivalry Project, a collaborative research effort co-founded by Dr. Cobbs and Dr. David Tyler of University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Using the football rivalry between Ohio State and Michigan as a case study, the documentary, titled *RIVALS*, leans heavily on content featured in Cobbs' class at NKU. Cobbs and Tyler formed the Know Rivalry Project to research fan perceptions of rivalry, provide guidance for industry professionals and develop methods for teaching consumer research and data analytics to students.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/4zuww4js>

FUEL NKU SERVES OVER 200 PEOPLE AT ANNUAL FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

NKU's on-campus food pantry, FUEL NKU, served 230 people at its fifth annual Friendsgiving Celebration on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022. NKU students, faculty and staff were invited for this community Thanksgiving dinner.

FUEL NKU has provided food and other essential items to students in a compassionate, confidential and safe environment since 2013. These services are available even when the university is closed for holidays.

The Kroger Co. provided turkey, Busken Bakery donated pumpkin pies and La Soupe provided additional desserts.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/4x375a32>

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CONTINUES FOR NORSE STUDENT-ATHLETES

NKU Athletics continued its excellence in academic endeavors in the fall 2022 semester as the Norse recorded a school record for highest GPA in athletics history.

NKU student-athletes achieved a 3.49 department-wide GPA. It was the 23rd straight semester of a department GPA of 3.0 or higher and the 17th consecutive semester featuring a department GPA of 3.2 or higher. The 3.49 department-wide GPA was the highest posted by NKU Athletics in school history. It was also the 11th straight semester in which NKU student-athletes finishes with a GPA of 3.37 or higher.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/23a3y62t>

ALUMNI NEWS



SARAH MOORE WAGNER'S POETRY EARNS NATIONAL ACCOLADES

Poet and NKU alumna Sara Moore Wagner has captured the attention of critics and readers in a major way throughout the past year, publishing a pair of books that have each earned national awards. The first, titled "Swan Wife," released in August 2022 after winning the 2021 Cider Press Review Editors' Prize Book Award. Her follow up collection, "Hillbilly Madonna," won Driftwood Press' 2020 Manuscript Prize, and came out just three months after its predecessor in November. In February 2022, Wagner also won an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council: funding bestowed upon creatives with an exceptional body of work.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/5axyp2pk>