



GOLD RUSH

NOV. 2023

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

8.9% (LAST 5 YEARS)
Retention rate increase

2.2% (LAST 5 YEARS)
Equity gap decrease for
URM students

7.9% (LAST 5 YEARS)
Graduation rate increase



NKU NAMES DR. CADY SHORT-THOMPSON AS UNIVERSITY'S SEVENTH PRESIDENT

Cady Short-Thompson, Ph.D., began her term as the seventh president of Northern Kentucky University on Oct. 2, 2023. The university's Board of Regents, in a unanimous vote, made the appointment on Sept. 13.

Dr. Short-Thompson brings a wealth of experience and a visionary leadership approach to NKU. Before returning to NKU, she served as CEO and executive director of Breakthrough Cincinnati, a non-profit focused on educational equity that provides rigorous college preparatory programs for high-need and high-potential middle and high school students and inspires and trains college students as the next generation of teachers.

Dr. Short-Thompson spent 25 years in higher education prior to joining Breakthrough Cincinnati, most recently serving as provost and professor at Hope College, and dean of the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College. She is also no stranger to NKU, having spent 14 years as an award-winning professor of communication and department chair from 1996-2010.

"I am ecstatic to return home to NKU, where my professional journey began, and to give back to the people and place that invested so fully in me," expressed Short-Thompson about her joy and gratitude for this tremendous opportunity. "NKU's values of excellence, engagement, student-centeredness, and belonging are deep in me and I am eager to serve alongside NKU's talented faculty, staff, students and alumni to lead this great institution forward. I love NKU and believe that it is entirely fitting that my first and final positions will be here."

Board Chair Rich Boehne said Dr. Short-Thompson's combination of passion, skills and experience set her apart from a field of strong candidates. "Cady's experience in leading organizational transformation during times of dramatic external change make her a great choice for NKU in 2023 and the years to come. It's also a huge added advantage that she knows well our campus community and the region, and she in fact credits mission-driven NKU for building the foundation of her career in higher-ed leadership."

COLLEGE CORNER

Chase College of Law presented the inaugural lectureship of its newly launched David and Nancy Wolf Program in Ethics and Professional Identity. The lecture by Los Angeles lawyer E. Randol Schoenberg offered a lawyer's account of recovering artwork stolen during the Holocaust in the days before World War II.

The event on Sept. 27 at the Cincinnati Museum Center was presented in conjunction with the Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, located at the museum center.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/cfcn6apf>

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/479jh5wm>

REAL AMBITION
REAL SUCCESS



WALL STREET JOURNAL: NKU TOP UNIVERSITY FOR EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

The Wall Street Journal has recognized Northern Kentucky University as one of the top universities in the country for exceptional value and putting graduates on the path to lucrative careers. NKU ranks 40th of out 400 universities around the country when it comes to best value. The study looked at how quickly a degree from NKU pays for its cost through the salary earned by students after graduation. According to the study, it takes NKU graduates an average of one year and two months to pay off the net price of a degree. **NKU is the only public university in the region and the Commonwealth that made The Wall Street Journal's top 100 rankings.**

"NKU is an engine for social mobility and this report just confirms that the hard work we are doing to remain affordable while simultaneously providing a high-quality education for students in our region, is working," remarked then-Interim President Bonita Brown. "We have been successful at preparing students for their desired career paths and will continue to do so while keeping affordability and ROI as top priorities." In the last five years, NKU's graduation rates have increased, with the time to degree has decreased. NKU students are graduating sooner and spending less. Brent Cooper, president and CEO of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce states, "NKU's commitment to providing high-quality education at an affordable cost only serves to further strengthen our region's workforce and economy. This accolade reflects NKU's dedication to excellence and affordability. NKU continues to be an invaluable asset for the northern Kentucky metro region." **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/7pjfbf3k>



THE SCOREBOARD

NKU is introducing six new sports teams to the roster. NKU's Board of Regents voted to add women's stunt, men's and women's swimming, men's volleyball, and men's and women's triathlon teams. In addition, the Norse recently expanded the men's and women's track and field and spirit programs.

Men's and women's swimming, men's and women's triathlon, women's stunt, and expanded track and field will join the Norse lineup as varsity sports for 2024-25. Men's volleyball will be added as a varsity sport beginning in 2025-26.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/2v26zj7k>

BRIEFS

STUDENTS' AI ARTWORK FEATURED IN LOCAL EXHIBIT

Artwork generated by artificial intelligence (AI) is featured in a new exhibit at the Campbell County Public Library.

The exhibit features 25 AI-generated images from the book, "The Legacy of Southgate Street School – Preserving a Landmark of the Black History of Newport, Kentucky." The book was developed by an NKU Honors class to tell the story of Southgate Street School, which was the only school open for Black students during segregation in Campbell County, Kentucky.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/yc45rnmv>

NKU SIGNS COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH KENTUCKY NATIONAL GUARD

Kentucky National Guard members will now have streamlined access to educational support through NKU's Veterans Resource Station (VRS). The Kentucky National Guard and NKU signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to create a partnership allowing the university to work with citizen soldiers to fit their unique needs on the path to graduation.

According to the Kentucky National Guard, such collaborations serve the dual purpose of facilitating their members' personal growth while also equipping them with skills and knowledge beneficial to their roles in the Guard.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ydm97rxm>

FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. David Childs, director of the Black History program at NKU, joined additional professors and graduate students to present their research on slavery and religion in the region at a conference at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 18. The paper, titled "Jordan River I'm Bound to Cross: Researching Slavery and Religion in Northern Kentucky and Ohio," explores the significant role the Ohio River played in enslavement as the last hurdle to freedom for slaves. The paper also showcases incredible research done by the Black Studies program and the Master of Public History program in learning about and exploring historical sites tied to freedom and religion, including research conducted at an historically Black church, an all-African American school, and several Underground Railroad sites throughout the region.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/r4n2cs4n>

NKU SAVES MORE THAN 3,000 POUNDS OF FOOD WASTE THROUGH COMPOSTING

In just one year, FUEL NKU and NKU Sustainability have saved more than 3,000 pounds of food waste from landfills! Composting became part of FUEL's daily operations last summer when NKU partnered with GoZero Services to further our sustainability efforts.

To date, NKU has diverted 3,286 pounds of waste, a huge number considering that nearly 40 percent of all food produced goes to waste and 30 percent ends up in landfills.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/ywsv555d>

NKU TO HOST FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL IN 2024

NKU has received a grant from the Villa Albertine, a new French institution for arts and ideas in the United States, to host the Albertine Cinémathèque Film Festival on NKU's campus throughout the spring 2024 semester.

During the film festival, a slate of films will be shown, followed by a discussion of the film, moderated by an NKU professor from the departments of World Languages and Literatures and English.

A full schedule of films and discussion moderators will be released later.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/4ja5bbaf>

ALUMNI NEWS

NEXT STOP: FRUIT LAND



Juggling classwork and her small business, recent NKU graduate Paloma Villasana created the after-school hangout spot she once dreamed of. Thus, Fruit Land was born in 2021—two years before Villasana would graduate with a bachelor's degree in business information systems.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/muky2m95>