



CPE REPORT

Eastern Kentucky University News for the Council on Postsecondary Education



EKU LAUNCHES HIGH-DEMAND DEGREE PROGRAM IN MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

Eastern Kentucky University students will soon have the opportunity to pursue degrees in manufacturing engineering. With an anticipated 32,400 new manufacturing engineering jobs nationally by 2029, ECU's bachelor's degree in manufacturing engineering addresses an expanding need within and beyond the state.

"I'm excited to announce that Eastern Kentucky University will have the only manufacturing engineering degree program in Kentucky," said ECU President Dr. David McFaddin. "With this new program, ECU is uniquely positioned to serve the growing demands of Kentucky's labor market in the manufacturing sector. As the School of Opportunity, we take pride in offering relevant, high-demand degree programs that enable our graduates to propel Kentucky industries forward."

Students will develop skills to design, analyze and modify the processes and systems used to make products in the most time and cost effective way while maintaining product quality and safety in an environmentally friendly manner. Students will gain expertise in the major areas of manufacturing materials and processes, design for manufacturability, lean manufacturing, quality and process control, automation and robotics.

"EKU's new manufacturing engineering curriculum will be an essential part of our economy of tomorrow," said Frank Jemley, president and CEO of the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers. "We applaud ECU's foresight in establishing this cutting-edge degree program. It will play a key role in growing more high-wage manufacturing jobs as Kentucky increasingly becomes a state of choice for American and international companies to make world-class products."

Michael "Sean" June, Ph.D., was selected as director of manufacturing engineering at ECU. June began the position on Dec. 12, 2022. In this position, he is responsible for leading the new manufacturing engineering degree program, including curriculum and faculty development, student recruitment and retention, and program accreditation, among other responsibilities.

"The idea is to create, empower and educate students to have the skills to do what's needed right now," June said of his position at ECU. "We are dedicated to giving students the education, background, creativity and innovational skills to serve the industry as it continues to evolve."

The manufacturing engineering degree begins in Fall 2023.



EKU TO OFFER OPTION 9 ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Eastern Kentucky University received recent approval by the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) to offer an Option 9 alternative route to teacher certification. In partnership with multiple educational cooperatives, ECU Option 9 increases the aspiring educator pipeline and addresses teacher shortages in the Commonwealth.

EKU Option 9 students will pursue their bachelor's degree and initial certification in elementary education while employed in a participating school district. Students will complete coursework online and work in classrooms to complete field experience and student teaching requirements.

"EKU is committed to serving partner school districts in a variety of ways, including the streamlined Option 9 route to teacher certification for eligible candidates," said Dr. Nicola Mason, chair of ECU's Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Leadership.

EKU partnered with the following education cooperatives in offering Option 9:

- Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative (CKEC), 24 school district members
- Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC), 74 school district members
- West Kentucky Educational Cooperative (WKEC), 26 school district members
- Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative (SCEC), 26 school district members

"The Option 9 program is an innovative pathway that permits candidates to work and learn in the school environment while obtaining certification," said Dr. David Gilliam, superintendent of Madison County Schools and chair of the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative Board of Directors. "This will open the door for many non-traditional candidates and will meet an immediate need for staffing in our public schools."

COLONELS SPIN THE WHEEL TO LAND EDUCATION ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS

Over 400 students gathered in O'Donnell Hall on Feb. 1 to enter in ECU's annual Spin the Wheel Education Abroad Scholarship contest after a two-year hiatus. The Spin the Wheel scholarship, covering complete program costs and airfare for education abroad, was awarded to 14 students. When their names were drawn, students got to spin the wheel to determine their education-abroad destinations.

"We want to provide opportunities for students who never really expected to study abroad. We want our students to have experiential opportunities, and this contest removes any financial barriers," said Jennifer White, ECU's director of education abroad. "Plus, it's so exciting! You can feel the energy as we draw names and students spin the wheel. We were so happy to bring it back this year."

Zoe Moore, an agriculture education major, said she entered the contest on a whim. With the scholarship, she now plans to spend her summer in Ireland. From Danville, Kentucky, Moore said, "I've never been outside of the country. I have only ever been to a few U.S. states that are close to Kentucky. I never thought I'd be able to travel out of the country. The thought of being able to afford the opportunity to study abroad was unbelievable to me."

Scholarships were sponsored by: ECU President's Office; Provost's Office; Education Abroad Office; College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences; College of Business; College of Education and Applied Human Sciences; and Friends of the ECU Libraries.

