



GOLD RUSH

NOV. 2024

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

17%

first-year student
enrollment
growth

30%

increase in
transfer student
confirmations

COLLEGE CORNER

NKU President Dr. Cady Short-Thompson signed an agreement with Academic City University College of Ghana (ACUC), launching a **STEM-focused Master of Business Administration** partnership program between the two universities through the Haile College of Business.



NKU LAUNCHES SIMPLIFIED TUITION PROGRAM FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS FROM OHIO AND INDIANA

In a move designed to further streamline the college admissions process and make education more accessible, Northern Kentucky University is introducing its new **3 States, 1 Rate** tuition model. This initiative offers tuition reciprocity for students from Ohio and Indiana.

The 3 States, 1 Rate model eliminates the confusion and complexity surrounding tuition. Undergraduate students from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana who are admitted for the fall of 2025 will all qualify for in-state tuition regardless of county of residence within those states. This new tuition model makes the cost of attending NKU more predictable and transparent.

"NKU is breaking down barriers to higher education, and 3 States, 1 Rate is another significant step in that direction," says NKU President Dr. Cady Short-Thompson. "We want our students to focus on their academic goals and success, not on deciphering complicated tuition structures. This model reinforces our commitment to affordability, access and student success."

The simplicity of the 3 States, 1 Rate model also includes a simplified merit scholarship process. Students within defined high school GPA ranges automatically qualify for merit-based financial aid. This eliminates the need for students and families to navigate complicated award formulas. NKU is tying merit directly to academic performance, making it easier for high-achieving students to plan their finances and receive recognition for their hard work.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/3states1rate>

NKU RANKED AS A TOP UNIVERSITY OF "BEST VALUE" BY THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

For the second year in a row, *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) has recognized Northern Kentucky University as one of the top universities in the country for best value and setting graduates up for successful lucrative careers. According to WSJ's 2025 report, **NKU ranks 29th out of 500 universities** around the country when it comes to best value. NKU is the only public university in the region and the Commonwealth that made the WSJ's top 100 ranking! The report focuses on how quickly a degree from NKU pays for its cost through the salary earned by the student after graduation.



According to the study, it takes graduates one year and one month to pay off the net price of a degree from NKU. That's one year faster than the time it would take a graduate to pay off a degree from the University of Kentucky, and two years and five months faster than the University of Cincinnati, according to the report. This ranking clearly highlights NKU's competitive edge in the region and the state. "What NKU offers is exactly what the American public has been asking for—an affordable, high-quality education that leads to prepared graduates in lucrative careers," said NKU President Dr. Cady Short-Thompson. "The talented faculty and committed staff at NKU give students more than they pay for, and their successful outcomes are our proof point. I'm proud of what these rankings signify." **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/bestvalue2024>



THE SCOREBOARD

One of the most skilled players in program history is staying in Highland Heights to mentor her former teammates. **Maddie Lacer has been hired as an assistant coach** for the Northern Kentucky softball team. During her playing career, Lacer was named All-League First Team as a junior and All-League Second Team as a senior, winning Horizon League Defensive Player of the Year honors in both 2023 and 2024 thanks to her stellar work as a catcher.

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

BRIEFS

NKU BREAKS GROUND ON \$86 MILLION EXPANSION TO HERRMANN SCIENCE CENTER

Northern Kentucky University officials **broke ground on an expansion of the Dorothy Westerman Herrmann Science Center** in a ceremony at the Highland Heights campus on Thursday, Oct. 31. The expansion project will add an 85,400 square-foot addition to the existing science center, allowing several academic programs to consolidate their spaces into one state-of-the-art, STEM-focused facility. The expansion will enable NKU to significantly enhance its lab and student research space in departments including biological sciences and engineering technology.

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

SHEA CONLEY NAMED NEW MEMBER OF NKU BOARD OF REGENTS

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear announces the **appointment of Shea Conley, of Lexington, to Northern Kentucky University's Board of Regents**. Conley's appointment will run through the end of the 2029-2030 academic year. "Shea's expertise and commitment to both the field of law and the broader community are a perfect match with NKU's mission and values," said Nathan Smith, Chair of the Board. "We are excited about the impact he'll have in shaping the university's future."

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

FACULTY FOCUS

Northern Kentucky University is celebrating the success of Professor Kelly Moffett in receiving a second Fulbright award, a prestigious recognition that highlights her exceptional contributions to academia and cultural exchange. Building on the success of her first Fulbright award, Professor Moffett will travel to Poland next spring to design and teach two creative writing classes in the Department of North American Cultures and Literatures at the University of Warsaw, with the long-term goal of establishing a creative writing program at the university.

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

NKU AWARDED \$2.4 MILLION TO MEET REGIONAL NEED FOR PARAPROFESSIONALS IN HUMAN SERVICES

Northern Kentucky University has been **awarded \$2.4 million** from the National Institute of Health's Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide students in NKU human services programs with scholarships, stipends for field placement and apprenticeship support. Human services encompass a range of professions that support individuals in improving their quality of life. The \$2.4 million grant provides up to \$10,000 to students who are majoring or minoring in Human Services and Addictions.

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

CHHS ASSOCIATE DEAN VANESSA HUNN NAMED AS FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST

Northern Kentucky University's Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, Dr. Vanessa Hunn, has been selected for the **Fulbright Specialist Program**. Dr. Hunn will have the distinguished opportunity to provide expertise to a Fulbright host university abroad while serving a three-year term on the program's roster. As a Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Hunn may be matched to projects with host institutions in more than 150 countries. Following assignment to a host university, Dr. Hunn plans to share her expertise and learn from other international institutions.

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

ALUMNI NEWS



NKU GRADUATES AWARDED FOR SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY SHELTER OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY

A team of five recent graduates from Northern Kentucky University's Visual Communication Design program has **won the Student Experiential Design category** at the 2024 Cincinnati Design Awards for their work with the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky (ESNKY).

Ash Coleman, Leah Hulsmann, Tabitha Phelps, Em Sanning and Sarah Weimar's award-winning project was the result of a meaningful collaboration with ESNKY, where the team developed wayfinding, signage and environmental graphics for the shelter's state-of-the-art facility in Covington. The innovative non-profit organization provides life-saving, life-changing, low-barrier shelter and transformative services for adults in the community.

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