
Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, June 2021

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WKU welcomes two new deans

WKU will have two new academic deans on the Hill in July.

Terrance D. Brown will be the new Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters while David N. Brown will be the next Dean of the Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

Terrance Brown is the Founding Executive Director of the School of the Arts at the University of North Alabama in Florence where he provides vision and leadership for the Department of Music, Department of Visual Arts and Design and the Cinematic Arts and Theatre Program.



Terrance D. Brown



David N. Brown

He began his career at North Alabama as a faculty member in 2010, becoming chair of the Music Department in 2015 and Founding Executive Director in 2018. He has doctor of musical arts and master of music degrees from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and a bachelor of music from Samford University in Homewood, Alabama.

David Brown is the Associate Dean for Graduate Education in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Louisville.

He joined the University of Louisville in 1996 as an assistant professor. He has served as Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy and inaugural Undergraduate Program Director in Physics & Astronomy. He is a professor of Physics, Associate Dean for Graduate Education in the College of Arts & Science since 2018, and Acting Associate Dean for Research in the college.

He earned his doctoral and master's degrees in physics from Purdue University and bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics from Eastern Michigan University.

WKU to use \$1.92 million grant to strengthen counseling workforce

WKU will use a \$1.92 million federal grant to improve the health of underserved and vulnerable populations by strengthening the counseling workforce.

The grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration is among \$22 million in awards to 56 recipients as part of the Behavioral Health Workforce and Education Training (BHWET) Program for Professionals. WKU will receive \$480,000 a year for four years beginning July 1.

“We are now entering an era in which our counseling workforce will serve people managing the unknown impacts of the pandemic. This award is a not only an enormous benefit for WKU, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, but to our region at large as we prepare the next generation of counseling professionals.” CEBS Dean Corinne Murphy said. “The grant provides \$10,000 stipends for up to 29 interns each year for the next four years, site supervisor stipends, as well as funds for interprofessional training and faculty professional development largely focused on serving the needs of our rural communities. This funding will significantly and positively impact our ability to recruit, retain and support our students as they grow in to counseling professionals.” See

<https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9729>

WKU awarded IDEAS grant from U.S. State Department for study abroad project

WKU has been selected to receive an IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students) grant from the U.S. Department of State's Capacity Building Program for U.S. Study Abroad.

WKU is one of 26 colleges and universities from across the United States, selected from 132 applicants, to create, expand, and/or diversify American student mobility overseas in support of U.S. foreign policy goals. This U.S. Government program is funded by the U.S. Department of State and supported in its implementation by World Learning.

WKU's project, *Counties to Countries: Building Study Abroad Capacity for Rural Americans (C2C)*, is designed to rethink study abroad from the perspective of students from small, rural communities. See: <https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9702>

WKU Forensics Team wins NFA titles, completes national championship sweep

The WKU Forensics Team won both the National Forensic Association Individual Events Team Championship and the National Forensic Association Lincoln-Douglas Debate Team Sweepstakes national championship, completing a sweep of national titles.

WKU is the only team in forensics history to win the American Forensics Association Team Championship, the National Forensics Association Individual Events Team Championship, and the National Forensics Association Debate Team Championship in the same year. WKU has accomplished this feat 10 times since 2003.



Sophomore Andre Swai of Springfield, Missouri, won the final round of Lincoln-Douglas Debate on a 4 to 3 decision, becoming the Lincoln-Douglas Debate National Champion. He represents WKU's 12th L-D championship. Swai also became the first Black man to ever win the NFA National Championship in debate. In 2015, WKU's Nefertiti Dukes became the first Woman of Color to win the NFA-LD championship. Additionally, WKU senior Ben Hanson of Louisville won the tournament's Top Speaker Award in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

In individual events, WKU was crowned team sweepstakes champion with 919 points, while the University of Texas at Austin placed second with 589.5 points, and Bradley University placed third with 530.5 points. Other top 10 schools included George Mason University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The WKU team was also crowned team sweepstakes champion in Lincoln-Douglas debate with 131 points, while the University of Nebraska-Lincoln placed second with 82 points, and Missouri State University placed third with 79 points. Other universities competing in debate include Pennsylvania State University, UCLA, John Carroll University and UC Berkeley.

In addition to the team's success, forensics team members captured five out of the top 10 individual sweepstakes awards. See

<https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9618>

21 WKU students earn Gilman Scholarship for study abroad

Twenty-one WKU students earned the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad in the March 2021 application cycle. The recipients earned scholarships totaling \$91,500.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered the operations of the scholarship program and the study abroad programs it funds. Recipients whose study abroad plans are interrupted by travel restrictions are able to defer awards to study abroad programs that begin before April 30, 2022, or apply funding to alternative programs, including credit-bearing virtual international opportunities. See <https://www.wku.edu/news/articles/index.php?view=article&articleid=9709>