



# GOLD RUSH

MARCH 2021

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## GO FIGURE

FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

600

Supporters

\$316,296

Total Raised

1 DAY

The Most Gifts for NKU in a Single Day



## NKU OFFERED 13 FREE CLASSES AS PART OF ITS ANNUAL MAKING TEACHING PUBLIC CELEBRATION

As part of our Homecoming festivities, NKU continued its commitment to breaking down barriers to higher education by offering free classes with its third annual Making Teaching Public celebration. NKU virtually opened up its campus and welcomed community members to get a glimpse at faculty excellence in the classroom.

The goal is to spark an interest within the community. Making Teaching Public is designed to be convenient for anyone to take an inside look at a variety of subjects and explore NKU. Thirteen courses were available for anyone to attend at no cost. This year's topics ranged from teaching elementary students reading skills and professional makeup designs to creating a village's brand identity in the Czech Republic.

"This celebration is a wonderful opportunity to open our classrooms and share the faculty's expertise with the community," said NKU President Ashish Vaidya. "Learning in the classroom—whether in-person, virtual or hybrid—is at the heart of the college experience and making it 'public' allows learners from all walks of life to get a glimpse into NKU's core mission. It allows our alumni an occasion to engage with their alma mater and offers community members the chance to learn something new."

By offering virtual courses, the annual celebration was the most successful one yet. Nearly 400 community members registered to join. President Vaidya first introduced this during his inauguration week as part of NKU's learner-focused framework, and the university intends to continue this tradition for years to come.

## COLLEGE CORNER

The School of the Arts partnered with NKU's Office of Community Connections to create MLK Day activity packets for over 700 local school kids with an activity, MLK Jr. Day of Service sticker and NKU Visual Arts Pennant. The packets include hand-drawn portraits, prompts for self-reflection and an invitation to respond to Dr. King's call to make the world a better place.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ds7437d>

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/txt48p2p>



## NKU SELECTS NEW PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dr. Matt Cecil has been announced as NKU's Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs following an eight-month search. As NKU's Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Cecil will help advance the university's mission to deliver innovative, student-centered education across its seven colleges beginning July 1, 2021.

Dr. Cecil brings more than a decade of academic administration experience. A media historian, he is a leading scholar of FBI history during the J. Edgar Hoover era. Dr. Cecil is the author of three books and more than two dozen articles on the topic. His 2014 book, "Hoover's FBI and the Fourth Estate," was named national History Book of the Year by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

"The current crisis has only further confirmed that I am most inspired by the student success, social mobility and economic vitality mission NKU upholds," said Dr. Cecil. "President Ashish Vaidya and the campus community continue to embark on an ambitious strategic framework for NKU, which values its role as an integral part of the region. I am excited to play a role in their diligent work. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Mass Communication from the University of Iowa, a MA in History from Minnesota State University, Mankato and a BS in History from South Dakota State University. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/4cjjprfw>

## THE SCOREBOARD

Marques Warrick has been named the Horizon League Freshman of the Year and tabbed to both the All-Freshman and All-Horizon League Third Team. Warrick finished the season averaging 15.8 points per game while shooting 45% from the floor and 36% from the three-point range. He was instrumental in leading NKU, one of the youngest team's in college basketball this year, to a third-place finish in the Horizon League standings.

## FACULTY FOCUS

Dr. Suk-hee Kim receives the Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education (CORSW) Community Impact Award, a national recognition that celebrates feminist leadership models in social work education. She receives the award for her Rising Hope for Aging Project, a community-based learning initiative that connects NKU students with residents at The Golden Tower, a low-income housing unit located in Covington, Kentucky, for senior citizens.

A proactive leader in gerontological research, Dr. Kim charged NKU's transdisciplinary approach to aging-specific curriculum and program development. She and her colleagues guided the creation of the university's gerontology micro-credential and advocated for the Aging Resource Center—a centralized location for the campus community. **LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/2x7jk6ty>

## BRIEFS

### NKU LEADER NAMED LOCAL HEALTH CARE HERO FINALIST

Dr. Valerie Hardcastle has been named as a finalist for the Cincinnati Business Courier's Health Care Heroes awards. Dr. Hardcastle is recognized for her community work and commitment to improving the quality of health care throughout the region.

An advocate for improving population health, Dr. Hardcastle's impact extends beyond the campus community. She has played an integral role in NKU's COVID-19 response and preparedness, and her work continues to help the region navigate its current environment.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/x8vnjeer>

### STUDENTS CONNECTING WITH REGION'S PRO SPORTS TEAMS

With Opening Day and FC Cincinnati's West End Stadium completion around the corner, NKU students are getting a behind the scenes look at Cincinnati's iconic sports franchises with its new community seminar series, Professional Sports in the Queen City.

The series has featured keynote speakers from the region's three professional sports franchises and industry experts discussing how the billion-dollar industry only keeps growing. Each seminar begins with a brief history of the franchise and explores both the player and business facets of the organization.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/39uusxxw>

### COMMENCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

NKU will hold in-person commencement ceremonies for May 2021 graduates and also honor all of our 2020 graduates at their own ceremony. All events will take place at a series of ceremonies inside BB&T Arena on campus from May 7-9, 2021, and also live-streamed.

"Nearly 50% of our students are first in their families to go to college, so commencement is not just a culmination of their academic achievement, but also a celebration of their determination and resiliency," said President Ashish Vaidya. "Student success is our number one goal. We believe that if we can find a way to celebrate their achievement, it's a great step."

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/rehjwydz>

### BB&T ARENA VACCINATION SITE

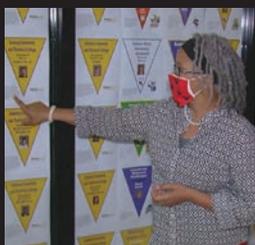
NKU's BB&T Arena on campus served as a St. Elizabeth Healthcare mass-vaccination site for eligible individuals on March 20 & 21. This served as St. Elizabeth's largest vaccine clinic yet, and they gave out 4,000 shots between Saturday and Sunday, doing about 280 doses an hour.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare continues to be a community partner and sponsor of NKU's commitment to the cause of public health, and it's taking a community to get through the pandemic. The vaccination site demonstrates NKU's commitment to engaging internal resources and external stakeholders to address the issues impacting the region.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/ewxn8uec>

## ALUMNI NEWS

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE



When Newport High School transitioned to a virtual format earlier last year, Donna Watts ('03) continued to do what she has always done—help her students and their families. Watts, a youth service coordinator for Newport High School, worked hard during the pandemic to eliminate barriers that prevented her students from achieving their education.

Whether it was a lack of access to internet or food, Watts did all she could for her students. Now, her responsibilities change daily based on what her students and their families need, but her assistance doesn't stop at the end of the school day. If students are looking for a job, Watts helps them along the way—from filling out applications to getting them clothes for the interview and job.

**LEARN MORE:** <https://tinyurl.com/28ws86nr>