

Congratulations Class of 2016!



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Important Dates:

All Month

NKU Softball, Baseball,
and Track and Field—
[Click here to see the full
NKU Athletics schedule](#)

April 28

Feast for Finals

April 29

Last Day of Classes

May 2—May 6

Final Examinations

May 13

Commencement—
Chase Law

May 14

Commencement

Congratulations to all the parents and family members of Northern Kentucky University's Spring 2016 graduates! Your love and support has paid off! In preparation for Commencement Weekend events, be sure to check out the new [ShopNKU](#) website. ShopNKU is where Norse Nation supporters can easily find where to buy local and online NKU products.

Friday, May 13 at 6 p.m.

Chase College of Law ceremony

Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

College of Education and Human Services, College of Health Professions, and College of Informatics

Saturday, May 14 at 3 p.m.

College of Arts and Sciences and Haile/US Bank College of Business

Additional information about Commencement, including directions and a link to watch the ceremonies live, can be found [online](#).





Summer Spark – NKU’s Innovative Summer Bridge Program

July 5 – August 5, 2016

Summer Spark is Northern Kentucky University’s five-week summer bridge program that provides incoming first-generation students with a high school GPA between a 2.5 – 3.5 the ability to acclimate to college while earning college credit, all before classes even start in the fall!

Why participate in Summer Spark?

By participating in Summer Spark before your first semester at NKU, you’ll have the unique opportunity to:

- Complete your first college math course required for graduation
- Complete a general education course required for graduation
- Receive up close and personal support by NKU faculty, staff, and your peers through small class sizes, tutoring sessions, and peer-led academic study sessions
- Learn to navigate the structure and rigor of college
- Engage in valuable out-of-the-classroom programming geared to your academic success and personal development at NKU
- Build lasting relationships with your peers through campus and social activities
- Access all campus resources and services to help you smoothly transition into your first year of college
- Experience all of this and more at a significantly reduced rate.

Learn more and register at <http://summerspark.nku.edu/>

2016 Gold & White Gratitude Award Recipients

Outstanding Freshman

Meleia Michels
Jake Wietmarschen

Outstanding Sophomore

Hannah Siefert
Troy Cornes

Outstanding Junior

Clare Lees
Nick Bliven

Outstanding Senior

Marsha High
Drew Bamberger

Legacy

Natalia Weekly
Daniel Ginn

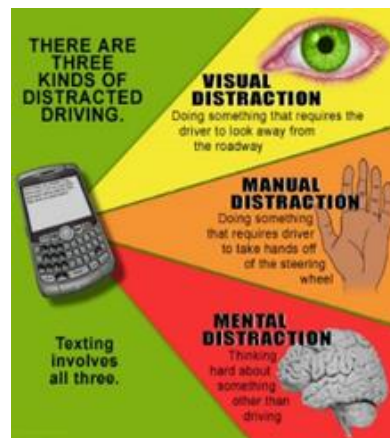
Congratulations!

Get your motor runnin'....Head out on the highway....Looking for adventure in whatever comes our way.....Steppenwolf 1968

Students are home for the summer and it's time to "hit the road" (figuratively). They have places to go and people to see, but keeping them safe while traveling has its challenges. Some troubling and startling facts about college students and driving..... In a study conducted by the National Safety Transportation Board, college age drivers are the **highest risk group** of distracted drivers in the USA. The study showed, "that fatal crashes caused by distracted driving now outpace[s] the number of crashes caused by drunk driving," (<http://www.myimprov.com>).

Distracted driving comes in many forms:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or smartphone (hand-held and hand-free)
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Using a navigation system
- Adjusting a radio



Text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver and therefore, makes it the most dangerous. The sending or reading of a text message takes the driver's eyes off the road for an average of 4 to 6 seconds. If the driver is traveling at 55 miles per hour, this is the equivalent of driving an entire football field blind. (Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving, n.d.)

College students are comfortable with technology and have a misplaced confidence in their ability to drive, use cell phones, and other multi-tasks. Education and awareness is the key. Parents should model safe practices and eliminate distractions while driving. Driving responsibly should be the family norm. Accidents and fatalities from distracted driving are preventable. Everyone needs to make the right choice.

Bachman, M. (2016). *College Students at Greater Risk of Distracted Driving*. Retrieved from Improv: <http://www.myimprov.com>

Blueprint for Ending Distracted Driving. (n.d.). Retrieved from Distraction.gov: www.distraction.gov/downloads/pdfs/blueprints-for-ending-distracted-driving-pdf

Facts and Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved from Distraction.gov: <http://www.distraction.gov>

Outstanding Graduates Recognized with Annual Awards

Foundation Student Leadership Award

Natalia Weekly

Paul J. Sipes Award

Kathryn Sills

University Service Award

Justin Wynne

Regents' Award

Alma Onate

Faculty Senate Award

Travis "TJ" Schuyler

Excelsior Award

Alexander "AJ" Ryan

To learn more about these outstanding recipients, please visit the [website](#) for the full article.

Thank you to the 2015-2016 Parent Advisory Board...

This year's Parent Advisory Board has seen tremendous growth and activity!

This year, PAB members:

- *Attended on-campus meetings
- *Served as liaisons during Northern Exposure
- *Attended admissions events
- *Hosted Family Weekend
- *Hosted the Parent and Royal Reception
- *Provided vital feedback and suggestions for the betterment of the campus
- *And so much more!

Thanks to all of the PAB members for their service! A special thank you goes to our outgoing President, Rebecka Adams, who has worked tirelessly to support the Parent Advisory Board over the past two years.

Not a member of the Parent Advisory Board but want to get involved?

[Apply online](#) today to join the 2016-2017 Board!



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