

The Norse Parent

NKU Parents Association Newsletter

Fuel the Flame at NKU

President Mearns Unveils the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan



On January 10th, 2014, NKU President Geoffrey Mearns addressed the NKU community during the Winter Convocation. At this time, President Mearns revealed NKU's [2013-2018 strategic plan](#). In his letter to the NKU community discussing the strategic plan and the choice to call the plan "Fuel the Flame," President Mearns wrote,

"The flame, which has always graced the seal of our University, represents enlightenment. The flame symbolizes our collective quest for knowledge, for truth, and for beauty. That quest continues today with all of us who work and study at NKU."

The plan focuses on building from NKU's history and strengths while fostering innovation and creativity. The plan focuses on five key goals: Student Success, Talent Development, Academic Innovation, Community Engagement, and Institutional Excellence. The plan was presented to the NKU Board of Regents by the Strategic Planning Committee on November 13, 2013, and the Board unanimously approved it. The plan will help lead NKU into its 50th year.

In this issue:

[Fuel the Flame P. 1](#)

[Job Expo P. 2](#)

[Housing Update P.3](#)

[Workshop Series P.3](#)

[Textbook Lending P. 4](#)

Important Dates:

All Month

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

January 20

University Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21

Last day to add/drop a 16 week Class

January 25

Financial Literacy Workshop for Parents

February 1

Priority Room Selection begins for current housing students

February 13

2nd tuition installment due

January 2014
Volume 5, No. 4

JOB EXPO

Explore the possibilities

Is your student graduating within the next year or seeking summer or fall co-op/internship opportunities?

If yes, encourage him or her to attend Job Expo 2014 on Wednesday, February 26 from 3-6 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom to network with more than 100 employers. Job Expo is NKU's largest annual career fair and is open to students in all majors and all grade levels.

Training Sessions for Job Expo will be held Monday, February 17 (from 5-6 p.m. in SU 105); Tuesday, February 18 (from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in SU 105 and from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Norse Commons 116); and Thursday, February 20 (from 12:15-1:15 p.m. in SU 105) to teach students how to network with employers, to create a strategy for approaching a career fair, and to learn what to wear and bring to the event.

Students are expected to dress professionally and bring copies of their resumes and their ALL CARDS. Visit [Career Services](#) for more information, including a list of participating employers.

All students also have access to [Norse Recruiting](#) which includes information on more than 2,000 organizations, current job/intern/co-op postings, and a complete list of Career Services workshops.

If your organization is interested in hiring NKU students and alumni at Job Expo, please contact Juliane Stockman, Associate Director for Employer Relations, at stockmanj1@nku.edu.

Leadership Opportunity

Become an OA Today! Is your student a post-traditional student or did your student transfer to NKU? Is your student looking for a unique way to get involved on campus? Encourage your student to apply to serve as an Orientation Ambassador (OA)! OAs will lead students during

the Transfer orientation programs throughout the summer. This is a great way to develop leadership skills and enhance a resume. As added bonus, students who serve as OAs will receive a discount on their fall book order from the NKU Bookstore! Interested students should contact Britta Gibson: gibsonb9@nku.edu.

Flu season is here and it's not too late to get vaccinated!

Kentucky and Indiana health officials are reporting widespread flu activity while Ohio and national numbers are rapidly increasing. NKU students, faculty and staff returning to campus who have not been vaccinated are at high risk of becoming infected and spreading the virus. Most of the flu circulating now is H1N1, which disproportionately affects young and middle-aged adults, the primary age group of the NKU community. However, seasonal flu viruses may become more prominent as the season continues. This year's vaccine contains both H1N1 and seasonal flu strains so those who become immunized will have an increased degree of protection against multiple kinds of flu. Please help prevent the spread of the flu on our campus and consider getting vaccinated. Influenza vaccines are still available in Health, Counseling, and Student Wellness, located in UC (Student Success Center) 440, and we accept most major insurance plans which typically cover the cost in full. For those without insurance, the cost has been reduced to \$15 in the hopes of increasing vaccination rates on campus. Please call Health, Counseling, and Student Wellness at 572-5650 if you have any questions. Office hours are 8:30am to 4:00 pm and no appointment is necessary. This [link](#) provides more information.

Residence Life Update

In the fall of 2014, residents of University Housing will enjoy the benefits of two exciting new projects: the opening of Northern Kentucky University's newest residence hall and a newly renovated Norse Commons and dining hall facility.

Northern Terrace, the former Lakeside Terrace facility next to Callahan Hall, will open and serve 188 residents. Renovation of this facility will begin January 2014 and will include a complete overhaul of current rooms, the addition of several student amenities, and creating an atmosphere of NKU pride. Amenities include: two laundry facilities, two study lounges, a multipurpose game room, shuttle service, resident desk assistance, and close proximity to several favorite student stores and restaurants directly across the street. Residents of Northern Terrace will also be provided access to the amenities of Callahan Hall: the Callahan Bistro, workout facility, computer lab, indoor bike storage room, and a multipurpose game room. There are two unique Northern Terrace room types: quad with two full bathrooms and quad with two full bathrooms and kitchen unit. Residents of Northern Terrace will have the ability to arrange their "super quad" to their liking as all furniture, including large closet armoires, is moveable. If a student enjoys a spacious living environment, a close knit residential community, and the ability to design one's own area, Northern Terrace is certainly the place to live!



The **Village Café in Norse Commons** will close in March 2014 and will reopen after an extensive renovation. In August 2014, residents will enter a brand new Norse Commons which will include: the creation of a new multipurpose classroom, a redesigned information desk, relocated mailboxes and mailroom, and revamped housing facilities offices. Residents will also enjoy a new lounge area for studying, congregating with current and new friends, and relaxing between classes. The Village Café will see a major facelift with floating dining areas, diverse furniture options, outdoor courtyard space, expansion into one of the current classroom spaces, and a much warmer student friendly environment that will showcase NKU pride! The new atmosphere of the Village Café will certainly be the place where students can enjoy a tasty meal, spend time with friends, have student organization meetings, relax in the new NKU Pride room, or take a study break.

"Wish I Had Known..." Workshop Series

Helping parents (and students) understand the cost of attendance

This workshop is for **parents** of soon-to-be NKU students OR **parents** of students already attending NKU. With hands-on practice and a breakdown of real costs, you will leave this session with all the information you need to prepare your student and your entire family for the financial commitment that comes with college. Topics covered will include:

- The **real** cost of college (*what should you be considering when you come up with the "total price"?*)
- Types of student aid and what they mean to you
- NKU financial resources available to students and families
- Tips for effectively and realistically budgeting for college
- And much more!

Saturday, January 25, 2014 . 9-11 am

Tuesday, February 25, 2014 . 6-8 pm

Monday, March 24, 2014 . 6-8 pm

Saturday, April 26, 2014 . 9-11 am

Call to RSVP Today! Space is limited!

RSVP at 859-572-1967

NKU Welcomes New Provost

Northern Kentucky University is proud to welcome our New Provost, Sue Ott Rowlands. Prior to her arrival at NKU on January 6th, Ott Rowlands served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University . Ott Rowlands earned a Master of Fine Arts in Acting and Directing from the University of Oklahoma and a B.S. in Education from Oklahoma Christian College.

NKU is excited to have Sue Ott Rowlands on board!

University Connect & Persist

[University Connect and Persist \(UCAP\) office](#)

NKU students to the spring semester!

As a reminder, students who meet with UCAP coordinators have the opportunity to discuss strategies for creating and connecting with their success network on campus; to learn how to navigate important

screens in myNKU (like biller direct); and to review academic progress. In addition, UCAP's Lending Library is available to help students save a little money on textbooks. Depending upon the volumes available in our library and the textbook requested, a student may borrow one book per semester and return it during exam week.

Please encourage your students to visit us in UC suite 120! We are looking forward to meeting them!

Phone: 859-572-6497

Featured Resource

Tip of the month:

Does your student need a little extra money? Maybe they want to travel abroad or have asked you for some extra cash for a Spring Break trip. Encourage them to take the [52-Week Savings Challenge!](#) This money-saving challenge can help your student save over \$1,300 by the end of the year.

This approach can help your student begin to develop smart saving techniques and learn how setting aside money (even just \$1 a week in the beginning) can help achieve financial goals.

Contact Us:

Office of New Student Orientation and Parent Programs

Student Union 316,
Nunn Drive
Highland Heights, KY 41099
Telephone: (859) 572-7625
Fax: (859) 572-1960

parents@nku.edu
parents.nku.edu



[Connect with us on Facebook!](#)

Next Parent Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, January 31st
6:30-8:30 pm
Student Union 108

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Email parents@nku.edu