

**CAMPAIGN  
IN REVIEW**

**FURTHER  
FASTER  
FINALE**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR NKU



**MAKING  
A LASTING  
IMPACT**

# THANK YOU FROM **ASHISH VAIDYA**



Dear friends,

**IN THE SPRING OF 2019**, Northern Kentucky University publicly launched **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**, a university-wide fundraising campaign designed to help enhance NKU's important work of educating talented minds. Thanks to more than **18,000** donors and many others who advocated for this campaign and our beloved university, we far surpassed our initial campaign goal of \$75 million, raising more than **\$84.8 million** in support.

I am so proud of all that we have accomplished together. Contributions to the campaign have advanced the three pillars of our strategic framework, *Success by Design*, increasing access, completion, and career and community engagement.

Your generous gifts have helped make NKU more accessible to learners than ever before. This access is strengthened by the **197** new student scholarships created and funded by our dedicated community of donors. Furthering the impact, more than **100** of these scholarships are endowed, meaning they will live on in perpetuity, providing financial assistance to NKU students indefinitely.

Because of you, more NKU students are completing their degrees. Since the inception of this campaign, we have celebrated more than **20,000** new graduates. Many of those who earned a life-changing degree were first-generation, low-income and underrepresented individuals facing significant barriers. The continued investment in our students is what has made this level of degree completion possible. There are now more than **75,000** NKU graduates living and working in every corner of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the globe.

Through the campaign, we have been able to expand students' opportunities for career and community engagement. Thanks to collaborations with various partners and stakeholders, more students are becoming engaged and contributing to the prosperity and vibrancy of our region. These strategic partnerships allow students to get real-world experience and push NKU to better serve northern Kentucky, Greater Cincinnati and beyond.

The *Further, Faster* campaign has been a tremendous success, impacting every facet of our campus. Every college, every facility and every athletic team is better today because of you. Thank you for supporting this campaign and fueling our students, the university and the region as we go further, faster.

Sincerely,

Ashish Vaidya  
President

THANK YOU  
FROM  
**RICH BOEHNE**



To our supporters,

It is astounding what we have accomplished through our collective commitment to **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**. Our vision for this campaign was to open the university's doors to learners whose entry might otherwise have been blocked by challenges.

As an alumnus and first-generation college student, I know the value of an NKU education and have experienced the university's dedication to providing students with the resources they need when they need them. It is inspiring that so many of you stepped forward to support the mission of this campaign, despite a pandemic that reshaped life in our communities, nation and the world overnight. NKU continued to pursue its mission, and our donors honored that by delivering incredible support.

Because of you, we surpassed our campaign goal by nearly **\$10 million**, making this the largest and most successful fundraising campaign in university history. Your generosity has allowed NKU to make significant strides in its strategic work, providing increased access, completion, and career and community engagement for students of all backgrounds. Donations from alumni, community members, faculty and staff, foundations, businesses and more have helped NKU strengthen its work of empowering eager students to reach new heights, bolstering the vitality of our community, economy and society.

The lasting impact of this campaign will be seen in the strong return on investment for every dollar contributed. Each donor who entrusted NKU with their precious contributions will see the impact of their giving in action through the vibrancy that current and future leaders, innovators and engaged citizens bring to our region. The success of our students, graduates, athletic programs, and faculty and staff have been enabled by the many supporters who chose to believe in the power of higher education and the promise of this campaign. Thank you for advancing NKU today and bringing prosperity to our region tomorrow.

With deep appreciation,

Rich Boehne ('81)  
*Chair, Campaign Committee*





# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

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**\$75,000,000**  
CAMPAIGN GOAL

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**\$84,831,967**  
RAISED



**137**

NEW ENDOWMENTS



**197**

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS



**15**

NEW FACULTY  
ENDOWMENTS

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**18,446**

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS



**7,742**

NEW DONORS

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**76,490**

TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

# DONOR PARTICIPATION



**\$20,861,883**  
FRIENDS



**\$11,607,386**  
FOUNDATIONS



**\$18,539,808**  
ALUMNI



**\$6,481,711**  
FACULTY/STAFF



**\$17,995,609**  
CORPORATIONS



**\$9,345,570**  
OTHER





# CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

## ACCESS

Access provides aspiring students of all backgrounds the chance to earn a college degree, offering social mobility and improved economic status. During the campaign, NKU donors increased scholarship opportunities and support resources, putting higher education within reach for more students than ever before. In the end, donors like you are helping our region thrive.

## COMPLETION

Completion focuses on ensuring we help struggling students reach their educational goals despite barriers or pitfalls that may arise throughout their journey. Gifts from university supporters strengthened the programs, services and personnel aimed at retaining students from start to finish. This generosity allows hard-working students to earn degrees that change their lives and improve their communities.

## CAREER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Career and Community Engagement aims to prepare graduates for opportunities that advance our region while also pursuing meaningful careers and fulfilling lives. Contributors to NKU invested not only in our students but also in important initiatives such as experiential learning, study abroad and internships. Through this support, we are building the regional leaders of tomorrow.



**\$22,778,898**  
ACCESS



**\$28,011,444**  
COMPLETION



**\$34,041,625**  
CAREER AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

## DONOR IMPACT: LIFT SCHOLARS PROGRAM



DANA ADKINS

**THE LIFT (LIFELONG INVESTMENT AND FUTURE TRANSFORMATION) SCHOLARS PROGRAM** was established at the beginning of **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**. Donors Rich and Lisa Boehne and Bill and Sue Butler each committed \$1 million in matching funds to this program, doubling its overall impact and creating a \$4 million fund in total. This is the largest-ever matching gift in NKU's history.

LIFT is a scholarship program to support student populations at the highest risk of not completing their degree, focusing efforts on low-income and first-generation demographics—a significant portion of NKU's student body. The program was designed to help students access a transformative college education and navigate challenges on the path to degree completion. Then as graduates, be prepared to engage with their communities, the region and our world through their lives and careers.

Since the matching gift was announced, 19 new scholarships have been established through this program, all of which will be endowed in perpetuity. These scholarships are bridging the gap that makes an NKU education possible, reducing barriers and providing opportunities that offer a support structure in which the recipients can develop academic, financial and personal plans.

Along with the financial assistance provided by the LIFT Scholars Program, recipients have the opportunity to network with the donor who established their respective award and must meet with a staff member from University Connect and Persist (UCAP) to outline their goals and strategies for successful degree completion.

This scholarship program has impacted nearly 100 students since its implementation in the 2020-21 academic year.


Dana Adkins, an elementary education major, is a recipient of a LIFT scholarship, the Jane S. Edwards Endowed Scholarship. She found that meeting with her respective donor and seeking out support through UCAP were essential additions to her academic planning and admitted that she would not have known the benefits of such had it not been for the LIFT Scholars Program. "This scholarship helped me feel more engaged with the NKU community through opportunities to connect with on-campus resources, my donor and others who have invested in student success," Dana says.

Already a dedicated student, Dana says that this scholarship motivated her even more. It encouraged her to remain focused, even when navigating her busy lifestyle as a mother of two. When Dana first found out she had received the scholarship, she didn't believe it. "I cried when I realized it was true. It was and is such a blessing. This scholarship came at the perfect time and offered the support my family needed so I could follow my dreams of finishing school and becoming a teacher," Dana says.

The LIFT Scholars Program pushes students like Dana to go above and beyond what they would have initially thought. It provides them with confidence and a community of supporters who are at the ready with invaluable resources and helpful tools. Our donors' investment in programs like LIFT empowers our students, enabling the creation of an educated and socially engaged workforce necessary for the region's continued growth.



## DONOR IMPACT: DR. CAROL J. SWARTS



MARIA BRODERICK

DR. CAROL J. SWARTS

**A LOYAL FRIEND OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, DR. CAROL J. SWARTS**, has impacted the growth of our students and faculty through her many generous contributions. She shares that her family has always valued education and its ability to transform lives, encouraging her to remain steadfast in her charitable commitments.

Dr. Swarts never expected to settle in northern Kentucky, but while in Cincinnati for her specialty training in radiation oncology, she met her now late husband, Frank Sinton Milburn. She wanted to honor his memory when he passed, thus beginning her longtime philanthropic relationship with NKU. Understanding that he also valued education, she decided to establish the Frank Sinton Milburn Outstanding Professor Award, which was the first of her many gifts for faculty support at the university. "Devoted faculty are more likely to stay at NKU if they feel recognized and appreciated for their outstanding work," she shares. "Why not support the people who support our students?"

Dr. Swarts made a significant investment in NKU faculty today and in the future by establishing several endowed professorships. The Straws Endowed Professorship in Computer Science was funded and awarded for the first time during **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**. The remaining endowed professorships are a part of Dr. Swarts' estate plans, continuing her legacy of transformative education and ensuring NKU has faculty members devoted to the successful degree completion of their students.

Beyond faculty support, Dr. Swarts says she has always been science-oriented, making contributions to STEM and health care studies at NKU. Through the Swarts and

Milburn Undergraduate Research Award, Dr. Swarts hopes students will learn to think and ask many questions—not just accept what someone is telling them—but be inquisitive and work to achieve their goals.

Maria Broderick recently received the Swarts and Milburn Undergraduate Research Award. After graduating from NKU in 2016 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, Maria decided to return, this time pivoting to a major in neuroscience. Maria says she has always been interested in the sciences and even contemplated double majoring when first coming to college. A few years after graduating, she says the itch to study biological sciences returned. "I knew if I was going to return to school, I needed to have a solid plan and know what path I was passionate about," she says. "Through a lot of exploration, I discovered a love for neuroscience research."

In the summer of 2022, Maria began working in the lab with Dr. Justin Yates on research pertaining to a drug that works on the cannabinoid system as a potential treatment for fentanyl addiction. Through this opportunity, she has become more confident in her research skills and plans to continue this interest by pursuing a Ph.D. program upon graduation. "This award has allowed me to research what I'm passionate about and has helped prepare me for graduate school," Maria says.

Students like Maria benefit from the excellent faculty and research opportunities that donors like Dr. Swarts make possible. Her steadfast friendship and contributions to NKU allow extraordinary growth and progress to be made for our students, faculty and the region. "I'm proud to be able to continue my family's philosophy of acceptance and looking after others," Dr. Swarts says. "And I value the friendships with faculty and staff I have been privileged to make over the years."

## DONOR IMPACT: **ST. ELIZABETH HEALTHCARE**



SAVANNA WONG

**ST. ELIZABETH HEALTHCARE** has allowed Northern Kentucky University's campus to grow in extraordinary ways through its many investments. Most recently, their commitment to **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU** has made an incredible impact, helping to bring the Health Innovation Center (HIC) to life and advancing career and community engagement opportunities for students and future healthcare professionals.

Meeting the needs of those in our communities and ensuring enough healthcare workers are available to serve those populations is a priority of the partnership between NKU and St. Elizabeth Healthcare. "The Health Innovation Center will help build a more robust workforce to meet the unmet needs of our healthcare community. One of the most exciting aspects of the Health Innovation Center is the new, cross-functional educational experience for students that will undoubtedly produce outstanding healthcare leaders and providers of the future," says Garren Colvin, St. Elizabeth Healthcare's president and chief executive officer.

One of St. Elizabeth Healthcare's most tangible contributions is the creation of the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Simulation Center, located in the HIC. This state-of-the-art center uses technology and thoughtfully designed spaces to create a safe learning environment for students to practice real-life healthcare situations.

In the Simulation Center, students have access to several simulation rooms, all with different focus areas, allowing for exploration and learner-centered education. Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) student Savanna Wong is entering her last semester in the program and has had a lot of experience learning through simulation. At first, practicing in the Simulation Center created some angst for

Savanna. Savanna says she often reminds herself: "The anxiety I feel is a good thing because you should never get too comfortable when treating a patient. Staying prepared for any situation is important."

Savanna has overcome a lot of those initial anxieties and has gained confidence through her hands-on practice in the Simulation Center. "It's very comforting to know that if you make mistakes while you're in the Simulation Center, they are just learning opportunities," she says.

Students like Savanna benefit from all the HIC offers and receive an innovative, evidence-based education. Students learn from faculty who continuously create an atmosphere that adheres to the highest standards and best practices. Through the Simulation Center, students are provided experiential learning that empowers and prepares them to positively influence the safety and health of the northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati populations.

The partnership between NKU and St. Elizabeth Healthcare far exceeds the experiences students gain in the classroom and the Simulation Center. By funding the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Executive Director of the Institute for Health Innovation, their support reaches beyond campus to address challenges and develop breakthrough solutions. This position is occupied by Dr. Valerie Hardcastle, who says her goal is to create a collaborative environment that leverages the best in our students, faculty and the community to help solve the big health issues of our time.

Northern Kentucky University is thankful for partners like St. Elizabeth Healthcare, who advance our mission and bring excellence to learners and future leaders. Through their dedication, the quality of healthcare will continue to improve for the citizens of our region.

## DONOR IMPACT: **R.C. DURR FOUNDATION**



ANDREW GAZZAROLI

**STUDENT SUPPORT REMAINS A PRIORITY AT NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, AND DONORS LIKE THE R.C. DURR FOUNDATION** have enhanced our ability to help students succeed early on through meaningful connections and career advising. During **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**, the R.C. Durr Foundation has targeted student success through their giving, establishing focused First-Year Career Advising within the Career Services department.

Their investment provides funding for a First-Year Career Advisor, which expands the vital work of Career Services by reaching a vulnerable population of students early to help them prepare for their future career prospects. They also fund three student First-Year Peer Career Coaches. These peer coaches meet with students who need help choosing or switching their major and connect them with campus resources to make these decisions easier.

Sydney Gebka serves as the First-Year Career Advisor, and she brings energy and determination to this new role. Career Services has been able to increase its efforts to contact first-year students, especially those who are undecided or have undeclared majors. "Since this programming was made possible in fall 2021, 15 times as many students have completed career and major exploration appointments compared to the previous year. We hope to continue growing these numbers," Sydney says.

Along with the R.C. Durr Foundation's contribution, campus partnerships and diligent outreach efforts have made this progress possible. One of the most collaborative efforts of First-Year Career Advising so far is the development of the "Discovering You" event. This event was

designed to help pre-major students who did not qualify for their program of choice. It brings students, career advisors and academic advisors together to help these students explore potential majors.

Andrew Gazzaroli, one of the First-Year Peer Career Coaches, faced the hard decision of switching majors. He says this first-hand experience of selecting a new major has helped him understand his position better. Andrew knows the value of being a First-Year Peer Career Coach and how he can guide students who are nervous about making big academic decisions. "Here I am, a student just like they are, and someone who also just changed his major. I think these reasons are why students can more easily relate to me when they visit," Andrew says. "We are dedicated to ensuring students know that resources are available to help them through all four years, not just when they are preparing for graduation."

Like the legacy of R.C. Durr, benefactor of the R.C. Durr Foundation, this investment will create a lasting impact, adding tremendous value to our community. "We honor and celebrate the life of R.C. and his generous spirit by focusing on the areas he valued, such as education. The creation of First-Year Career Advising will enable students to start strong and find success through the people and resources dedicated to helping them along the way," says Wilbert Ziegler, president and chief executive officer of the R.C. Durr Foundation.

The students who benefit from the resources made possible through First-Year Career Advising today will go on to lead fulfilling careers and meaningful lives. NKU is grateful to be a recipient of the R.C. Durr Foundation's philanthropy and admires its dedication to the northern Kentucky region.



## DONOR IMPACT: W. BRUCE LUNSFORD



SARAH BROWN

BRUCE LUNSFORD

**THE SALMON P. CHASE COLLEGE OF LAW AT NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY SAW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE W. BRUCE LUNSFORD ACADEMY FOR LAW, BUSINESS + TECHNOLOGY** almost 10 years ago when the dedicated alum, Bruce Lunsford, made his first investment of \$1 million. Since then, the Lunsford Academy has proven to provide great success to the students who benefit from the personal and professional development tailored specifically to their individual goals. The Academy offers a curated honors curriculum, exclusive networking possibilities and applied learning opportunities through a specialized approach for each scholar.

Taking pride in the progress of this investment, Mr. Lunsford recently made another donation to expand the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology. This additional gift of \$3 million was made during **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU** and stands as Chase College of Law's largest gift in history.

Mr. Lunsford founded and currently serves as chairman and chief executive officer of Lunsford Capital, LLC, a private investment company that supports various ventures in areas such as healthcare, technology, entertainment and real estate. Beyond his occupational investments, Mr. Lunsford has remained involved in a wide array of civically engaged enterprises, such as the Lunsford Academy. "I am not a short-term investor in anything, and I want to be a part of the Academy's continued expansion. It has turned out to be a great blessing for me, and I'm really proud of what everyone has done to support it," Mr. Lunsford says.

This program's invaluable impact on students is reflected in the careers and

incredible accomplishments they achieve before and after graduation. Mr. Lunsford shares he is always impressed by the students in the Lunsford Academy and those who run it. "Many of these students have been inspired to do things they otherwise might not have done," he says. "Students have told me the Academy pushes their ambition beyond just going to law school and working for a law firm."

Students in the Lunsford Academy are encouraged to embrace the ways in which business and technology are intertwined with the legal field in a society that is constantly evolving and growing. Sarah Brown is currently pursuing her Juris Doctor degree at Chase College of Law and shares her experience: "Before coming to law school, I thought I was just going to be studying the law," she says. "Now, I understand that the newest generation of lawyers must gain knowledge of business and technology as it will be imperative for our success after we graduate."

She has been given opportunities to learn with and from others in the legal community. These experiences open up employment possibilities and instill confidence. "Through the program, I've learned about things such as crowdfunding, cryptocurrency and other fintech legal issues. I've also been able to attend seminars and summits to hear from innovators across the country in these legal fields on these topics," Sarah says.

The W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business + Technology opens the door to an integrative, well-rounded education in today's legal field. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and donors like Bruce Lunsford, the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at NKU continues to serve its students and the region with a competitive curriculum and innovative environment that shapes the legal advocates of tomorrow.

## DONOR IMPACT: KEITH AND LISA DANIELS



KYLE MASTIN

KEITH AND LISA DANIELS

**ALTHOUGH KEITH AND LISA DANIELS** are not Northern Kentucky University alumni themselves, their admiration for our university and the NKU Athletics program is immense. They have been courtside season ticket holders for the NKU Men's and Women's Basketball teams since 2008. Their interest was piqued when the Truist Arena, formerly The Bank of Kentucky Center and BB&T Arena, opened, and the pair of basketball fans thought they ought to check it out.

The Daniels were eager for a fun way to get involved in the northern Kentucky region, and the people working in the NKU Athletics program exceeded their expectations. "Everyone in the athletics department is so friendly and accessible," Keith says. "There are not many programs in the country where season ticket holders like us are greeted by the athletic director at almost every game and have had the ability to build a friendship."

Keith has served as a member of the Go Norse Fund Board of Directors since 2015, becoming an executive committee member in 2018 and serving as board president since 2021. When envisioning the future of the NKU Athletics program, Keith and Lisa hope to see NKU win an NCAA Tournament game. "Winning just brings more winning, whether in the classroom or on the court," Keith shares.

The Daniels have been steadfast donors to NKU Athletics, making generous annual gifts and commitments throughout the past 14 years. When drafting their will and trust, the couple believed the best legacy gift would be to establish the Keith and Lisa Daniels Endowed Athletic Scholarship. This gift added to the significant impact of **Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU**, supporting an undergraduate scholarship for student-athletes on either the Men's or Women's

Basketball team. Keith shares, "We hope our scholarship will help students receive the funding needed to make a meaningful difference in their life." Lisa continues his sentiment: "It shouldn't all be hard work. We want to help them get a good education and ease the financial burden so they can still enjoy their time in college," she says.

Although the Daniels' planned gift will support student-athletes on the basketball teams, their dedication to student support doesn't stop there. Kyle Mastin is a student-athlete on the Men's Cross Country team who has been impacted by the Daniels' commitment to NKU Athletics. Among his many athletic and academic achievements, Kyle was also presented the 2022 Go Norse Fund Award by Keith Daniels. This honor allows Kyle to serve as a member of the Go Norse Fund Board of Directors for a year. "I'd love for all student-athletes to meet the board and make the kind of connections I have," Kyle says. "Mr. Daniels has always looked out for me, and he treats me like any other respected member of the board."

Kyle shares that he didn't realize just how crucial donor support is to the success of NKU Athletics. His time spent with the board opened his eyes to this fact. "The culture of NKU Athletics is small but mighty. The fans, the donors, the athletes—everybody—we all strive for better, and we stick together," Kyle says.

The mission of NKU Athletics is to advance the university's vision while focusing on the well-being of student-athletes as they are prepared and empowered for academic and competitive success at NKU and beyond. The Keith and Lisa Daniels Endowed Athletic Scholarship will support the advancement of NKU Athletics and its mission in perpetuity.

# CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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We at NKU would like to thank the Campaign Leadership Committee members who have provided visionary and resolute leadership since its inception. By sharing their expertise and insight, these leaders have helped ensure the success of *Further, Faster: The Campaign for NKU*.

Rich Boehne ('81)  
*Campaign Chair*

Emerson Brumback ( 73)

Paul Chellgren

Bill Hawkins ( 78)

Jason Jackman

Barry Kienzle ( 73)

Tom Munninghoff ('76)

John Neace ( 79)

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Mary Zalla ( 87)

## **NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

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