



GOLD RUSH

MARCH 2025

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

GO FIGURE

FOUNDERS' DAY 2025

57TH

birthday of NKU

\$345K+

raised

1,000+

donors



NKU CELEBRATES 57TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY WITH ANNUAL 1,968 MINUTES OF GIVING

Northern Kentucky University celebrated its 57th anniversary with a **Founders' Day celebration and 1,968 minutes of giving**, in recognition of the university's founding year. Founders' Day is an occasion focused on all things Norse, when students, alumni, faculty and staff can share their pride and give back to NKU. Founders' Day began at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12 and ran through 4:48 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 for a total of 1,968 minutes.

This year's celebration featured a series of matches and challenges for alumni, faculty, staff, students and community members to maximize their impact through donations to their favorite department, scholarship fund, Norse athletics team or student-support service.

"Founders' Day is a time to reflect on the vision, dedication, and resilience that built NKU into the institution it is today. It is a celebration of our past, a recognition of our present achievements and a recommitment to our future," says President Dr. Cady Short-Thompson. "The impact of NKU extends far beyond our campus—through our students, faculty, alumni and community partnerships. As we honor those who laid the foundation for NKU, we also embrace the responsibility to shape the next generation of leaders, thinkers and changemakers."

This is the fifth year NKU is celebrating Founders' Day. In 2025, thanks to the generous contributions of more than 1,000 donors, the university raised more than \$300,000 to benefit academic programs, scholarships, student support services, student opportunities and more.

"This year's theme, Home, gave the larger NKU community even more opportunity to celebrate all things Norse," says Judy Caldwell, Director of Annual Giving. "It is exciting to see the impact of Founders' Day on our students' success year after year."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkufoundersday2025>

COLLEGE CORNER

Northern Kentucky University's **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program** was ranked as one of the top online programs in the state of Kentucky for 2025.

LEARN MORE:

<https://tinyurl.com/nkumsnranking2025>





NKU'S INKUBATOR PROGRAM RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

Northern Kentucky University's **INKUBATOR accelerator program** has been recognized by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) with the National Model University Accelerator/Incubator Program Award.

NKU's INKUBATOR is part of the Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) and supports student and alumni entrepreneurs, providing the education, mentorship and resources to turn their business ideas into reality. The program aims to increase the competitive advantage of start-ups and, since its foundation in 2012, has resulted in the launch of 43 businesses.

"Winning the USASBE Model Accelerator Award is a testament to the outstanding work of our faculty, mentors, students and community members in driving innovation and entrepreneurship," says Dr. Hassan HassabElnaby, dean of the Haile College of Business. "For years, INKUBATOR has been preparing the next generation of entrepreneurs, and this award affirms our commitment to fostering a world-class program right here in the Greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky region."

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkuhaileinkubatoraward>



THE SCOREBOARD

Courtney LeMay has returned to her alma mater as an assistant coach of Northern Kentucky University's STUNT team. LeMay is no stranger to NKU, having cheered from 2009-13. During her time as a student-athlete, LeMay participated in four national championship events. She was named hardest worker in 2010 and team captain in 2012-13. She was also a three-time Academic All-American. LeMay graduated from NKU in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in integrative studies with focuses in exercise science, organizational leadership, sports business and education.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkucourtneylemay>

BRIEFS

DR. BRANDON THOMPSON NAMED NKU'S NEW VP OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Northern Kentucky University is excited to share that **Brandon Thompson, Ed.D.**, will be the university's new vice president of student affairs. With a career in higher education spanning 15 years, Dr. Thompson brings a wealth of knowledge that will enhance the college experience for students across campus, whether in-person or online.

"I am honored to join NKU in building on the incredible work being done to create a student-ready institution, and I look forward to collaborating across the campus to further this mission," he says. "As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of higher education, I am committed to providing strong leadership that prioritizes student success and well-being—drawing inspiration from the mentors and family members who have guided me and recognizing the invaluable role of support and collaboration in achieving our goals."

Dr. Thompson earned his Doctor of Education in educational leadership and policy studies from Eastern Kentucky University, and his M.S. in college student affairs and B.A. in communication studies from Eastern Illinois University.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkubrandonthompson>

FACULTY FOCUS

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will host a screening of a film created by three Northern Kentucky University faculty. **Dr. David Childs, Professor John Gibson and Dr. Brian Hackett** collaborated with NorseMedia, NKU's student-staffed audio and video production house, to create "Underground: Freedom Stories Along the Borderland," a documentary that explores the rise of abolitionism in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. By examining key events and conversations at Lane Seminary in Cincinnati's Walnut Hills neighborhood, as well as on the streets of Augusta, Kentucky, and other river communities in the 1800s, the feature-length film offers valuable context for understanding modern discussions on race and equality.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkufreedomcenterdocufilm>

NKU NAMES DR. BETHANY BOWLING DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Northern Kentucky University is proud to announce **Dr. Bethany Vice Bowling** as the new permanent dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Bowling has served as interim dean of the college since January 2024.

"I am so proud to be able to serve the university and its students as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences," says Dr. Bethany Bowling. "Over the past year, in my capacity as interim dean, I have witnessed the dedication and passion of our students, faculty and staff, and I'm excited to continue building on our shared success."

Dr. Bowling is a native northern Kentuckian. She earned her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies – biology education and her M.S. in biology from the University of Cincinnati. She earned her B.A. in biology from Thomas More College. She will officially begin her tenure as dean on July 1, 2025.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkubethanyvicebowling>



ALUMNI NEWS

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

When **Melissa Arthur, dean of Nursing, Allied Health and Natural Sciences at Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC)**, decided to pursue her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Northern Kentucky University (NKU), she didn't do it alone. Arthur was part of a group of six colleagues from her college who all applied to the program together.

LEARN MORE: <https://tinyurl.com/nkumelissaarthur>