

Action Agenda 1999-2004

What Northern Kentucky University Will Do To Advance Kentucky's Reform of Postsecondary Education

**Nunn Drive
Highland Heights, KY 41099
(606) 572-5100**

For more information, see our Web Site: www.nku.edu

Why is it important for Kentucky to have Northern Kentucky University as one of its comprehensive universities?

- To provide high-quality, high-value, and conveniently accessible degree programs – associate, baccalaureate, master's and professional – to Northern Kentucky and environs
- To address key issues that shape the metropolitan region's future: strengthening P-12 education, encouraging lifelong learning, protecting the environment, contributing to economic development, promoting active citizenship, and engaging in university-community partnerships that respond to important local concerns
- To help develop and sustain a qualified, adaptable workforce essential to the economy of Northern Kentucky by providing flexible education and training programs

How will NKU enroll, retain, and graduate more students?

- Work with schools in the region to increase college enrollments among underrepresented populations
- Develop a more diverse student body and an environment that embraces multicultural learning
- Offer courses and programs at remote sites such as the Grant County Center and the Urban Learning Center
- Increase the number of evening, weekend, and concentrated-schedule courses
- Develop baccalaureate and graduate capacities as the Kentucky Community and Technical College System develops its occupational and technical capacities; work closely with KCTCS to provide services across the entire spectrum of postsecondary education
- Make sure that students – especially those in their first year – get academic help when the need is indicated

- Put students at the center of activities, services, and programs that make learning engaging, timely, convenient, and safe
- By offering competitive compensation and an appealing work environment, attract and retain highly qualified and capable faculty – and help them continually improve through emphasis on the latest technology, instruction techniques, and evaluation methods; stress the importance of advising, research, and community service
- Use our Program of Distinction (Center for Integrated Natural Sciences and Mathematics), in particular, to connect faculty and students with school teachers and their students to improve instruction, learning, and college-going rates.
- Continue to work with the regional Council of Partners to ease school-to-college transition
- Rigorously review the curriculum – both general education and majors – to make sure students can progress smoothly and efficiently through degree programs; define what they should know when they have completed their study
- Emphasize learning for citizenship and global understanding by providing opportunities for student community service, linking learning to practical experience, internationalizing the curriculum, and diversifying the student body

How will NKU and the publics it serves become more engaged with one another?

- Continue to conduct town meetings throughout the region every other year
- Through the Metropolitan Education and Training Services unit, monitor employer education and training needs and solicit feedback on NKU programs related to workforce development
- Directly or through technology, bring the best people and programs to the region from all over the world to meet immediate educational needs
- Create a Center for Civic Engagement to expand community-university partnerships
- Make greater multicultural understanding an educational and civic priority in the region
- Involve faculty and students in learning, research, and service that apply academic strengths to public issues while improving academic quality

How will NKU know whether it has done what it says it will do?

- Survey students – entering, exiting, and graduating – and alumni to gather information about student expectations, experiences, and what they learn
- Continually evaluate academic assistance to students to improve performance and retention
- Collect data about NKU that is revealing and useful – and share it with management, staff, faculty, and administrators to help them be more effective.
- Review and simplify NKU's organization, procedures, and policies
- Regularly obtain feedback from the public about performance and priorities through biennial town meetings and an external advisory group