

AGENDA

Council on Postsecondary Education Executive Committee

June 10, 2008
2 p.m. (ET)
CPE Meeting Room A
Frankfort, Kentucky

1. Roll Call
2. Action: NKU Regional Stewardship Program Stewardship Initiative Grant Proposals
3. Action: Interim President Employment Agreement
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

**Council on Postsecondary Education
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**Northern Kentucky University
Regional Stewardship Program
Stewardship Initiative Grant Proposals**

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council approve four stewardship initiative proposals submitted by Northern Kentucky University and endorsed by its Regional Advisory Committee.

According to Council guidelines, stewardship initiatives funding supports specific public engagement activities that improve economic prosperity, quality of life, or civic participation while furthering the goals and mandates of House Bill 1 and the Public Agenda. These funds are distributed to the comprehensive universities on a competitive basis. Proposals for stewardship initiative funds cannot be considered until the institution's strategic plan for stewardship activities and the priority area proposal have been submitted and approved and its regional grant funds have been distributed.

Northern Kentucky University was the only comprehensive university that met this requirement by the October 1, 2007, deadline for the first round of funding. NKU was awarded \$200,000 from that round of funding, and it is the only institution eligible for this second round of funding.

NKU submitted five proposals totaling \$280,000. These were approved by the Regional Advisory Committee (Appendix A). After Council staff and external reviewers evaluated the proposals, NKU decided to withdraw one of the proposals and revise two proposals based on reviewers' recommendations. See Appendices B-E for copies of the final proposals.

Using Technology and the Environment to Entice Students and the Community into the World of Science

NKU is asking for \$55,000 to give P-12 teachers Web access to chemistry demonstrations and experiments and to conduct workshops for teachers, P-12 students, and community members related to the Ohio River and water quality.

The specific objectives are to:

- Increase teacher interest, training, and resources in key STEM curricular areas.
- Increase student connection with science outside of their schools.
- Engage the community in STEM-related activities.

In order to achieve these objectives, NKU will:

- Develop an online chemistry demonstration database that will be available to faculty and local teachers for use in and out of the classroom. These demonstrations will be developed based on teacher need, as assessed through the High School Chemistry Alliance meetings and local teacher surveys.
- Host a two-day training in March 2009 for five northern Kentucky high schools on the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) Educational Foundation High School Curriculum. The curriculum provides a strong foundation for students who voyage aboard the PA Denny River Education Center, a floating classroom and laboratory for the Ohio River.
- Deliver a hands-on workshop for teachers, education and natural science students at NKU, and local watershed volunteers that will focus on specialized sampling and biological monitoring techniques. Workshop participants will collect samples and perform field analyses aboard the PA Denny River Education Center and will then conduct further analyses of their samples at the NKU Water Lab.
- Develop multiple lab modules that will bring high school chemistry classes to NKU labs to conduct experiments with instrumentation that would otherwise not be available to them. The labs will be created to align with teacher needs and core content, as determined through the High School Chemistry Alliance and teacher surveys.
- Create a summer research experience for five high school students. These students will be paired with current NKU research students to work with them on six-week projects over the summer.
- Lead 200 students from five high school classes who have implemented the ORSANCO Educational Foundation High School Curriculum on a four-hour boat ride where they will collect and assess water quality data from two monitoring sites.
- Develop a new elective laboratory course, "Connecting Chemistry with Community," in which students will have a required minimum number of service hours where they take their projects to the community or work with the community at NKU.
- Develop and teach hands-on activities for two community programs that will be held aboard the PA Denny River Education Center, including a two-hour "Exploring the Ohio River" program for Elderhostel participants and a four-hour interactive boat ride for students participating in NKU's Fun with Science Camp.

Next Generation Business Platforms Mobile and Web 2.0

NKU's College of Informatics requests \$50,000 to provide information and education for Web 2.0 and mobile platforms to regional businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies. Web 2.0 refers to the business concept of using Internet technology to spark creativity, increase

information sharing, and build collaboration. In addition, there is a shift away from voice-intensive cellular technology to data-intensive mobile broadband, and organizations must understand how this trend affects them.

The specific objectives of this initiative are to:

- Provide education on Web 2.0 platform to businesses, nonprofit agencies, and the public sector.
- Provide education on wireless/mobility to businesses, nonprofit agencies, and the public sector.
- Establish an environment for follow up to allow for maximum impact of the efforts this year to pay dividends longer term.

In order to achieve these objectives, NKU will:

- Conduct a two-day Web 2.0 “university” at the NKU Mets Center that will include an executive track and a technical track.
- Conduct a wireless “university” at the NKU Mets Center to educate organizations and businesses around the wireless platform.
- Facilitate at least two student projects for Web 2.0/mobile applications with local organizations and share their stories as case studies.
- Provide continued education around Web 2.0 and wireless after this initial project.

Addressing Community Health Needs: The Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative

The Northern Kentucky Nursing Research Collaborative was established in 2006 to facilitate interdisciplinary relationships with local health care providers and nonprofit agencies. Through these partnerships, community-based interventions have been developed that will employ primary prevention strategies designed to improve the health status of northern Kentuckians. The NKNRC intends to use *Healthy Kentuckians 2010* and *Vision 2015 Goals* as benchmarks to mobilize a community-based interdisciplinary approach to research methods that describe health outcomes specific to northern Kentucky and apply research findings that ultimately improve the health status of northern Kentucky.

NKU is seeking \$75,000 to develop a solid organizational infrastructure with necessary administrative functions that support the growing capacity of the NKNRC. This administrative infrastructure will support the NKNRC to, among other duties:

- Develop a formal mechanism for the enhancement of communication and collaboration with current partners in the private and public sectors.
- Design health care solutions based on the resources and expertise of partners.
- Conduct participatory research on quality improvement and best practices.
- Offer venues for discussion of community health issues.

- Develop and implement a fee schedule that will allow for appropriate reimbursement for the coordination and delivery of services made available to the providers of health care and the community at large.
- Secure additional community partners who can contribute to the mission of the NKNRC.
- Make the health issues of concern to Kentucky more visible to the local media.
- Provide educational resources and events that stimulate inquiry, promote research, and describe the status of health outcomes in Kentucky.
- Videotape educational offerings and make digital media available to partners via video streaming.

Northern Kentucky Center for Educator Excellence

NKU is seeking \$100,000 to create a Northern Kentucky Center for Educator Excellence. The center's mission and major objective is to foster collaboration in the northern Kentucky region to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified educators who will meet or exceed national standards.

To achieve its mission, the center will:

- Develop and implement regional guidelines for teacher preparation to help ensure that all northern Kentucky teachers will be prepared to help students learn the skills they will need to be successful in the future.
- Create a regional plan for focused and relevant professional development and integrate the regional plan into district plans. Some elements of the plan will be implemented at the district level and some at the regional level.
- Develop and implement a process for distributing incentives to recruit and retain top-quality teachers and teacher candidates in northern Kentucky. Incentives to retain teachers will be in the form of monetary or nonmonetary awards. Incentives to attract teachers will be college scholarships and/or loans in return for a commitment to remain in northern Kentucky as a teacher at the elementary or secondary level.
- Develop and implement a regional plan to encourage teachers to aspire to National Board Certification and support them in the process of obtaining the certification.
- Create a system to track teacher turnover and identify the reasons why teachers leave northern Kentucky schools and use this information to make changes that will reduce teacher attrition.
- Develop and implement procedures to measure teacher excellence in terms of student learning.
- Develop Future Educators of America chapters in all area high schools to encourage and support secondary students who aspire to become teachers.

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Interim President Employment Agreement

ACTION: That the Executive Committee approve a salary for the interim president, Richard A. Crofts, of \$25,416.67 per month for a period commencing June 16, 2008, and extending through December 31, 2008, with a provision for three one-month extensions; that an automobile be provided for his use; and that he receive standard benefits available to all state employees.

On May 23, 2008, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved the appointment of Richard A. Crofts as interim president and authorized the Council's Executive Committee to execute an employment agreement with Dr. Crofts.

The chair will report to the full Council that an employment agreement is being executed.