

Dual Credit Media Conference

Message: NKU and the NKY Superintendents' Association unveil an enhanced partnership that will make it easier and less expensive for high school students to get a head start on earning a college degree

Presenters:

NKU – President Geoffrey S. Mearns

NKY Superintendents' Association – Vice President Mike Borchers, Superintendent of Ludlow Independent Schools

Invitees:

Director, Northern Kentucky Education Council – (Lifelong learning council)

Director, Vision 2015 – (Education priority)

Director, United Way – (Education is priority)

Directors, Chamber/Tri-ED – (Prepare more graduates, quicker for the 21st Century economy)

Curtis Hall

President – Gateway

KDE – Dr. Tommy Floyd (invitee)

CPE – Aaron Thompson (invitee)

Current Year Students, Parents and Teachers:

- *Williamstown High School students and their BIO teachers will be on campus for a biology lab –other schools will be invited to participate

- *Will invite all schools to participate with special attention to Highlands HS, Campbell County HS, Dixie HS, Ludlow HS

- o NKU T-Shirts for all high school students in attendance

Members of the task force that was formed by President Mearns

Date: Friday, November 8

Time: 10:00-11 a.m.

Location: Student Union Ballroom (107B-C)

Program Agenda

- I. Welcome President Mearns
 - a. Overview of the Program Changes
 - b. Recognize the members of the Task Team
- II. Video of current student and a HS teacher who teaches in the program (total 4-5 minutes maximum)
- III. Comments Superintendent Borchers
 - a. Link between dual credit and the KY degree completion agenda;
 - b. Overall growth in dual credit in the area;
 - c. Importance of partnerships between K-12 and post-secondary providers to continuing to improve educational opportunities for our youth
- IV. Sign the proclamation: NKU, NKY Superintendents Association

10/17/13 Note from VB: This is a draft press release to be sent after the event. Quotes attributed to Randy Poe have been reviewed and approved by him. A copy of it has been sent to Chris Cole for his input and direction. We have also inquired of Chris how best to invite and encourage media contacts to attend the event. In addition, Curtis Hall will be inviting his media contacts to attend. We learned today that Curtis cannot attend on November 8. A meeting in Washington DC previously scheduled for October was postponed to 11/8.

NKY Superintendents/NKU Partner to Promote College Completion

Dozens of high school students celebrated an enhanced dual credit plan today. They watched as NKU President Geoffrey S. Mearns and NKY Superintendents' Association Vice President Mike Borchers signed a proclamation supporting expanded access for students, a strong partnership to lower the need for college level remediation, and increased degree attainment in the region.

"It's the right thing to do," President Mearns said. "Reaching higher degree attainment levels and lower remediation requires the NKU and the superintendents to work together seamlessly. Our partnership will accelerate quality education opportunities when students are ready. We are excited about the outcomes this effort will achieve." Northern Kentucky University teamed up with the Northern Kentucky Superintendents' Association to accelerate Northern Kentucky's degree attainment level. With 647 high school students currently enrolled in college classes at NKU, 47 more than last year, the plan is to expand the School-Based Scholars program to enroll 1,000 students by fall 2016.

"While 1,000 is a stretch goal, we believe we can achieve it," Mearns said. "If we are going to reach the goals of SB 1, we need to be innovative and more productive."

The increase in dual credit enrollment is part of four strategies to promote career and college readiness and degree completion called for in Kentucky's 2009 Session Senate Bill 1. The Commonwealth set a goal to reduce college remediation rates of recent high school graduates by at least fifty percent by 2014. Visit <http://education.ky.gov/educational/CCR/Pages/CCR.aspx> for more information.

Kentucky's emphasis on dual-learning opportunities is consistent with nationwide growth in dual enrollment. According to a recently published report by the National Center for Education Statistics, in Fall 2010, 1.4 million high school students took college courses concurrent with their high school enrollment. This is up from 1.2 million in Fall 2002.

"We have students in our high schools ready for college," Randy Poe, president of the Northern Kentucky Superintendents' Association and Superintendent of the Boone County School District, said. "The School-Based Scholars program keeps high-performing students challenged during their final two years of high school."

During one of NKU's presidential transition meetings, President Mearns asked the superintendents what the university could do to help them achieve their goals. Their response was "expand dual credit opportunities for high school students." The superintendents requested more classes, training and certification for their teachers to teach college classes, and a lower cost for the students.

President Mearns responded by asking the superintendents to create a joint committee to review NKU's current program and make recommendations within 60 days. The team completed a report in the timeframe allotted, and the university has implemented all of the recommendations.

"The team that came together worked quickly to make adjustments before the school year began," Poe said. "I can't say enough about our school representatives and the work that NKU faculty and staff did to reach a workable plan. We truly live in a collaborative community that gets things done for our students."

In addition to the School-Based Scholars Program, NKU is working to strengthen its partnership with Gateway Technical & Community College, impacting 3rd and 4th grade math scores through the campus based Kentucky Center for Mathematics, increasing interest in STEM education and careers through the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, and advising early childhood professionals on what is necessary for a strong start among children. The university's College of Informatics talent development strategy is the foundation for the fledgling Informatics Cluster in Northern Kentucky, and NKU is the driver behind a new regional education strategy for population health.

“We are focused on student success, and that has caused us to play a part across the spectrum of education to prepare students for life and work,” Mearns said. “Northern Kentucky has a bright future because of the many people working together on talent development. “

Sidebar: NKU School Based Scholar Changes:

- Lowered required entering GPA from 3.25 to 3.0
- Reduced the price from \$337 per course to \$225 per course, effective fall 2013. This resulted in an immediate savings of \$83,778 for participating families
- Increased to 8 the total number of courses that can be completed through NKU at the discounted rate
- Waived the application fee for SBS students who apply to NKU upon HS graduation (savings of \$40)
- Working with school districts on a plan to help their teachers add the credentials necessary to teach college content in their schools
- Developed an innovative hybrid approach that will team NKU faculty with high school teachers to provide intensive online content specifically for high school students. The first course (ENG 101) will be piloted in spring 2014.