



Spring 2018

Happy Spring! The warmer weather in our region always bring a sense of optimism, and these positive feelings seem particularly strong this year. Our MPA program will move into amazing new space in the renovated Founders Hall in May, and Dr. Darrin Wilson will join us there in August, bringing his expertise in local government finance and economic development. (More details and photos below.)

In addition, the MPA faculty and Advisory Board unanimously agreed to adjust our admission requirements so that pre-career applicants – with less than 5 years of professional experience – can get a waiver on the GRE requirement if their undergraduate GPA is 3.0 or higher. Please share this modification with any co-workers, friends or family who are interested in the MPA degree but may have seen the GRE as a barrier.

On an institutional level, NKU has identified Ashish Vaidya as the new president, starting in July 2018. Dr. Vaidya has served as interim president at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and, prior to that, as provost and vice president for academic affairs there. He has also held multiple leadership positions in the California State University system.

There will be continued growth on NKU's campus this year as the university celebrates its 50th anniversary. These developments include the Health Innovations Center – connected to Founders Hall – and a “gateway town center” at the corner of U.S. 27 and Nunn Drive.

We hope that you'll stay in touch as you can, including via social media and events. Please plan to attend the Spring Banquet on April 4!

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What's New in the MPA Program



We are very happy to announce that Darrin Wilson will join our MPA program as an assistant professor in Fall 2018. His teaching, research and consulting experience in local government finance and economic development will strengthen our Metropolitan Governance area of concentration, which will benefit our students and the region.

[Read more about Dr. Wilson & see what else is new in MPA »](#)

MPA Event



The MPA-ASPA Dinner was held on Tuesday, February 20 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in NKU's Student Union 104. More than 50 MPA students, alumni, faculty and ASPA members attended the annual event. Many thanks to the American Society for Public Administration Greater Cincinnati Chapter (ASPA-GCC) for supporting this event

[Read more & view pictures from the event »](#)

Regional Awards



Joe Shriver (MPA 1996) was selected as the 2017 City/County Manager of the Year by the Northern Kentucky City and County Management Association (NKCCMA). The award recognizes leadership and excellence in public service. In addition, Jeremy Worley (MPA student) was awarded the NKCCMA annual scholarship in January.

[Read more about Joe and Jeremy »](#)

Faculty Spotlight



MPA faculty members Shamima Ahmed and Julie Olberding have published research in recent months. Dr. Ahmed's research is on women in international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and Dr. Olberding's focuses on community development.

[Read more »](#)

Student Highlights



There are some interesting MPA Capstone projects happening this semester involving community partners from the City of Cincinnati to Princess Nourah University in Saudi Arabia.

[Read more »](#)

Alumni Highlights



During his time as a graduate student, recent alumnus Chris Robinson (MPA 2017) helped lead an effort to conduct the first survey of veterans living in northern Kentucky for his Capstone project.

[Read more about Robinson's project and other alumni highlights »](#)

New Jobs and Promotions

- Tom Eigel (MPA 2003) was appointed as County Administrator of Clermont County, Ohio.
- Michelle Eversole (MPA 2008) started at TriHealth as Project Consultant for Corporate Planning and Market Research.
- Kristen Gasperetti (Nonprofit certificate 2013) was recently hired as Project Specialist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.
- Deanna Hillard (MPA student) is now the Volunteer Engagement Specialist for the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society.
- Joshua Johnson (MPA 2015) accepted the position as Associate Director with the Talbert House.
- Emily Kitzmiller (MPA student) is a new Marketing Consultant at TriHealth.
- Claire Willingham (Nonprofit certificate 2016) was promoted to Development Associate for Annual Giving at the Educational Theatre Association (ETA).
- Rick Wilson (MPA 2009) is now serving as Senior Officer for Grant Development at the Bethesda Foundation.

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