

EKU Report

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Facility Raises Awareness, Helps Violence Victims

An initiative at EKU to raise awareness of many forms of violence that can affect the campus community and assist survivors now has a tangible presence with the opening of EKU-SAFE.

Professor Caroline Reid, principal investigator for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence against Women grant that funded the EKU-SAFE initiative, said the new center is “designed to be a warm, inviting healing space for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, cyberstalking and rape and for people who just want to have a dialogue.”

EKU-SAFE reflects the University’s desire to create a “culturally appropriate, coordinated response,” Reid added. “It’s a very creative and different way to approach the issue of violence.”

In 2009, EKU received the \$300,000 federal grant to fund ESCAPES, Empowering Students on Campus through Advocacy, Prevention, Education and Services, a collaborative effort involving EKU and several local non-profit agencies.

Marta Miranda, director of EKU’s Women and Gender Studies Program, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work and a licensed clinical social worker, was a co-investigator for the grant.

“We are designing a research-based culturally competent program that will be individualized to the EKU student population based on qualitative and quantitative data,” Miranda said. “The center will be used for educational, creative and activist activities to assist survivors and the campus community in creating a campus culture that actively engages in the prevention of violence and takes ownership for each other’s welfare. First-year students, international students and LGBTQ students are most at risk on any college campus for violence, and ... we are taking a proactive approach by creating training, presentations, programs, workshops, plays, poetry slams, games, activists and service opportunities that will increase awareness and provide opportunities for difficult dialogues.

“I hope to see every single person at EKU take ownership of making our campus safer, and be willing to identify himself or herself as ‘I am EKU SAFE,’” she added. “We want to put EKU on the national map as a campus that takes responsibility to prevent and reduce violence.”

EKU Ranks in Top Tier of Southern Regionals

EKU ranks in the top tier of Regional Universities in the South in the 2011 edition of “Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report.

EKU ranks 59th among 90 universities in the top tier.

Over the past two decades, the U.S. News college rankings, which group schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has grown to become the most comprehensive research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities.

“As soaring college costs make the decision more complicated than ever, U.S. News strives to provide students and families with the best information to help guide them through this process,” said U.S. News & World Report Editor Brian Kelly.

Forbes Ranks EKU among ‘America’s Best’

For the third consecutive year, EKU ranks among “America’s Best Colleges,” according to Forbes, the popular business magazine.

Of the 610 public and private colleges and universities recognized, EKU ranked No. 556. Because there are approximately 6,600 accredited postsecondary institutions nationwide, the ranking essentially places Eastern among the top 9 percent of colleges and universities.

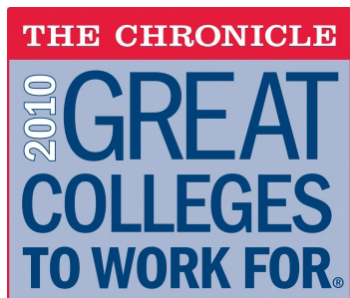
The third annual report, compiled by Forbes and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) from a variety of sources, ranks undergraduate institutions based on students’ satisfaction with their college experience, incurred debt, retention and graduation rates, and the success and salaries of graduates.

“To our way of thinking, a good college is one that meets student needs,” the Forbes report says.

EKU among Chronicle's 'Great Colleges to Work For'

EKU is among 10 "large universities" nationwide, and the only large university in the Commonwealth, to make the Honor Roll in The Chronicle of Higher Education's 2010 Great Colleges to Work For® program, according to the results of the third annual survey announced in a special supplement of The Chronicle.

The Chronicle's Great Colleges to Work For® program recognizes small groups of colleges and universities (based on enrollment size) for specific best practices in areas such as compensation and benefits, work environment and institutional policies.



Among four-year colleges and universities with enrollment of at least 10,000, EKU ranked in the top 10 nationally for Professional/Career Development Programs, Teaching Environment, Work/Life Balance, Confidence in Senior Leadership and Tenure Clarity and Process.

"That EKU has been listed again among the 'Great Colleges to Work For' is really a tribute to our outstanding faculty and staff, dedicated colleagues who always strive for the highest standards of excellence

individually and corporately," President Whitlock said. "It's these men and women who make the University a great place to work, and their positive, can-do spirit is reflected every day in our core mission: a second-to-none educational experience for our students.

"It was icing on the cake for us that we moved up in the 'Great Colleges to Work For' listing by earning a place on the Chronicle's Honor Roll."

The results, released today in The Chronicle's third annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of more than 42,000 employees at 277 colleges and universities.

In all, only 97 of the 277 institutions achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions.

Contributions to Public Good Earn National Recognition

EKU has earned national recognition for its contribution to the public good.

Among the 551 public and private colleges and universities named in the 2010 Washington (DC) Monthly College Guide and Rankings, EKU placed 181st, tops among Kentucky institutions in the "Master's Universities" category. (Eastern recently became a doctorate-granting institution.)

Washington Monthly rates schools based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: Social Mobility (recruiting low-income students), Research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and Service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).

"Unlike ... similar guides, this one asks not what colleges can do for you, but what colleges are doing for the country," the magazine explained. "Are they educating low-income students, or just catering to the affluent. Are they improving the quality of their teaching, or ducking accountability for it? Are they trying to become more productive – and, if so, why is average tuition rising faster than health costs. This guide asks, 'Are we getting the most for our money?'"

Veterans Responding to New Initiatives, Welcoming Atmosphere



For the second consecutive year, EKU ranks in the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students, according to G.I. Jobs magazine.

The magazine's 2011 list of Military Friendly Schools (viewable at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/2011list) was compiled through exhaustive research, as G.I. Jobs polled more than 7,000 schools nationwide. Criteria for making the list include efforts and level of success in recruiting and retaining military and veteran students, and academic accreditations.

The honor comes as EKU is welcoming increasing numbers of veterans, drawn by the University's Operation Veteran Success, a series of initiatives designed to make Eastern an even more veteran-helpful campus.

EKU has extended reduced tuition rates to all out-of-state veterans. For post 9-11 G.I. Bill recipients, both resident and non-resident, who have completed 36 months of active federal service, this means no out-of-pocket tuition costs. Also, the University has: waived the \$30 admission application fee for all veterans, added recreational programming that appeals to their adventurous nature, developed a veterans-only orientation course, established a mentoring program pairing freshman veterans with returning student veterans, and instituted special cohort classes where veterans can learn together with fellow veterans.

Last year, EKU enrolled approximately 400 veterans. "Today that number stands at 540, and I predict we have just scratched the surface," said President Whitlock.