

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, September 2016

For more WKU news, visit www.wku.edu/news.



Med Center Health, WKU to partner on \$22 million Sports Medicine Complex

In January, Med Center Health will begin construction of a \$22 million Sports Medicine Complex on the WKU campus.

The 57,000 square foot, two-story facility will provide space for WKU’s Department of Physical Therapy and Med Center Health’s new Orthopaedic/Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation group. The complex will

also provide space for WKU’s baseball fieldhouse and include the construction of an indoor multi-purpose facility, which includes a football field, a straight track and netting for training for various outdoor sports. The construction cost will be totally funded by Med Center Health, making it the most significant investment by a private company to date on the WKU campus. WKU will provide a 99-year lease on the land, located between the existing football practice field and the baseball field.

Connie Smith, President and CEO of Med Center Health, said, “This partnership creates a treatment and teaching environment that is mutually beneficial to our patients, the university community, and specifically to WKU’s physical therapy students.”

WKU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy Program will move from the Health Sciences Complex on the Medical Center campus, freeing space for UK’s College of Medicine.

“This will allow our Doctor of Physical Therapy program to move to our main campus and be joined by Med Center Health’s Orthopaedic/Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation group. It also engages our DPT program with our WKU athletic teams in a new state-of-the-art, year-round multi-purpose facility and will provide a valuable new indoor experience for our campus community and the public through collaboration with the Preston Health and Activities Center,” WKU President Gary A. Ransdell said. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/08/19/medctr-wku-complex/>.

WKU sets record \$23.1 million in annual gift receipts

WKU raised \$23.1 million in private gifts during fiscal year 2015-2016 — the highest annual total in the University’s history and a 22 percent increase over the University’s previous record. It includes gifts from more than 14,000 donors who made more than 29,000 individual gifts. That total also includes \$9.7 million for endowment and \$7.9 million for student scholarships. WKU’s deferred gift expectancies reached a record \$106 million.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/08/05/yearend-gifts-2016/>.

WKU achieves record success in national scholarship arena

WKU students and recent graduates achieved record success in multiple national scholarship competitions in the 2015-16 academic year. Of the all-time high 136 students and alumni who applied, 70 earned recognition, winning more than \$465,000 in funding.

Eight graduating seniors and recent graduates were selected as Fulbright grantees, and a further five designated as alternates. All five WKU students who applied for Boren Scholarships were selected for funding of an academic year of study in China and Jordan. An additional five students won Department of State-funded Critical Language Scholarships for summer intensive language study. A record-tying four Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science students earned National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarships.

Seventeen students earned Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to fund study abroad. For the second year in a row, WKU had two Truman Scholarship nominees selected as finalists. And two of WKU's four nominees for the Goldwater Scholarship were recognized as honorable mentions this year. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/08/18/national-scholarships-2016/>

Concrete Canoe team finishes 4th in the nation



WKU civil engineering students finished fourth overall in the 2016 Concrete Canoe National Competition. The finish equaled the concrete canoe team's best ever in the national competition. WKU's Bar-B-Qrete finished third in oral presentation, third in design paper, fifth in final product and ninth in race points during competition at the University of Texas at Tyler.

WKU PBS partners with Warren juvenile detention center to provide training program

WKU PBS installed a television studio and set inside the Juvenile Detention Facility in Warren County as a pilot project to provide workforce development training and educational augmentation to the residents. WKU PBS hopes to provide similar opportunities at the other detention centers across the Commonwealth and is creating a template for other PBS member stations across the nation to provide similar projects.

Over a two-week period in late July and early August, a residential unit was transformed into a television studio and production control room and residents were given a combination of classroom and hands-on instruction with television equipment.

The lessons were designed to echo STEM curriculum requirements and focused primarily on technology, team-building and math. Each participating resident was given 30 hours of instruction. Professional and student staff from WKU PBS and Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center educators provided the training.

The residents of the facility produced two episodes of long-running public affairs program, *Outlook with Barbara Deeb*, that aired on WKU PBS. The guests included U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie and Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary John Tilley.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2016/08/25/wkupbs-wrjdc-training/>