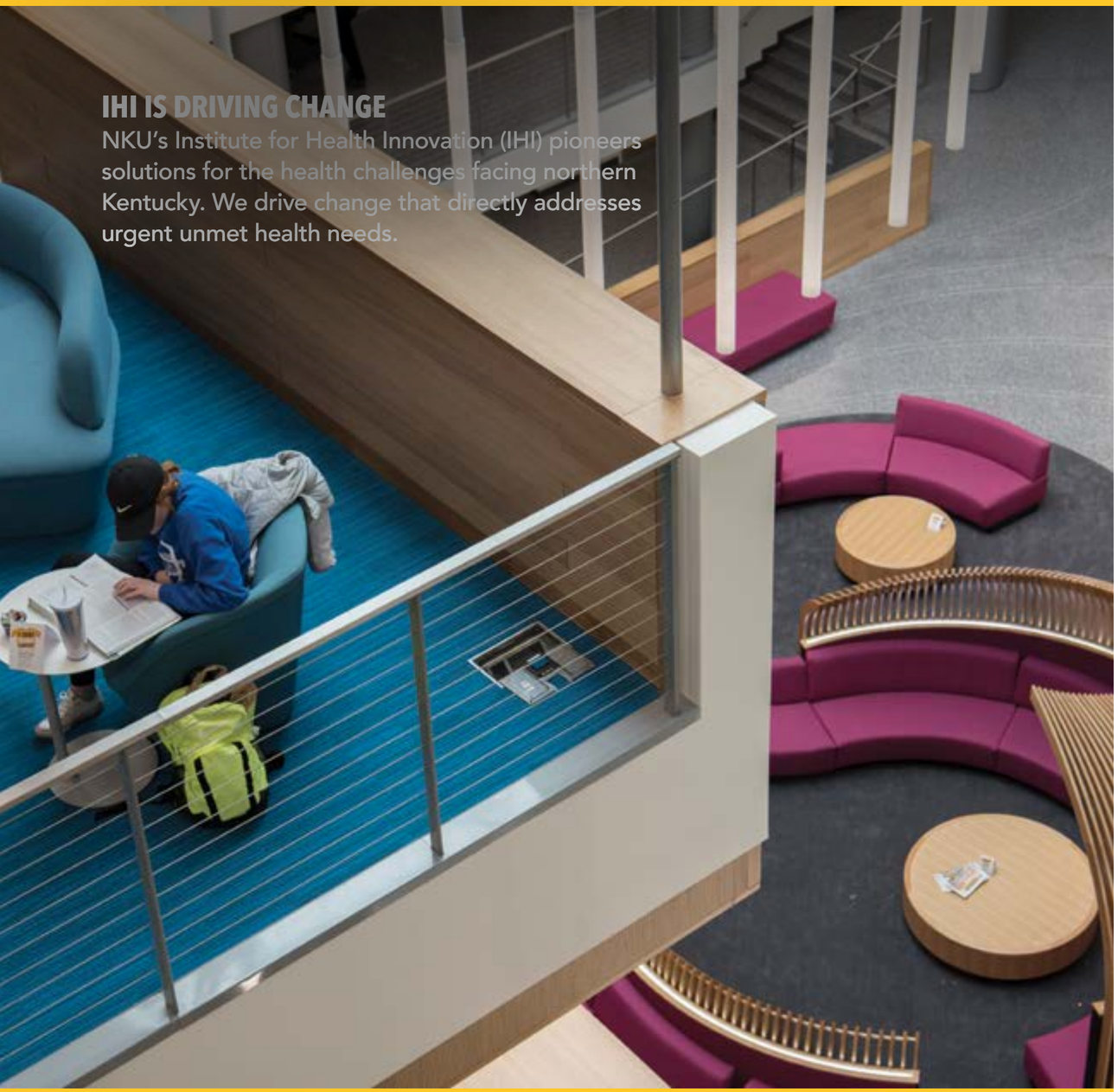
NKU | Institute for Health Innovation

2021 Annual Report



IHI IS DRIVING CHANGE

NKU's Institute for Health Innovation (IHI) pioneers solutions for the health challenges facing northern Kentucky. We drive change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am proud to share our 2020 Annual Report reflecting our second year of the Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University and everything we have done over the past 12 months—despite the global health catastrophe we find ourselves in right now.

We followed our banner initial year with an excellent second year of external funding. We received more than $4 million in grants, which we are using to:

- Improve and expand support services for substance use disorder in Owen and Carroll counties,
- Continue and expand our student pipeline programs,
- Develop innovative community programs to support healthy activities, and
- Promote health innovation and entrepreneurship in our region.

We are also supporting six IHI Faculty Fellows, created the Clothes Closet @ NKU for students in need, and sponsored events on suicide prevention, the story of Peloton, space travel and a "demo day" for health/health care innovations.

We more than doubled the size of our team. In addition to Carolyn, Lauren, Amanda and Nancy, we have also welcomed aboard Marissa, Shanna, Donal, Doug, Rico, Kara and Emily – and we are in the process of hiring four more associates right now.

Stay tuned for new digital health-related games for youth, more IHI Faculty Fellows and additional high-profile events—either on campus or as virtual webinars.

Our community partnerships continue to deepen and expand. We have come to consider our university and community collaborators as our personal friends as well as our work colleagues. I speak for all of us at the IHI when I say that we find our work uplifting, rewarding and meaningful, especially given the tremendous support and encouragement we all receive from everyone around us! The IHI team simply could not do what it does without the community coming together to collaborate with us. We thank you. And I look forward to everything we will be doing next year!

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Who We Are

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Addiction/SDOH

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  Director, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation; Chief Medical Officer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center; and B.K. Rachford Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati
- Steve Haist
  Associate Dean, UK College of Medicine at NKU

Policy

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- Kim Moser
  Kentucky House of Representatives and Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
- Mark Rothstein
  Director, Institute for Bioethics, Health Policy, and Law, University of Louisville

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- Bleuzette Marshall
  Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, University of Cincinnati
- Georgia Heise
  Director, Three Rivers Health Department

Strategy

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- Tom Rosenberger
  Vice President for Communications, Mayfield Brain and Spine

STAFF

Valerie Hardcastle
St. Elizabeth Healthcare Executive Director of the Institute for Health Innovation

Nancy Costello
Program Director, COPE Grant

Doug Ladd
Entrepreneur-in-Residence

Carolyn Noe
Program Director

Marissa Draper
Project Manager

Rico Grant
Executive Director SoCap Accelerate

Lauren Jennings
Event Coordinator

Shanna Osborne
Care Coordinator

Kara Willis
Operations Manager SoCap Accelerate

Amanda Andrews
Program Assistant

Donal Salchli
QRT/Re-entry Coordinator

Emily Geiger
NKY-HII Fellow

DONORS

The Institute's programs are made possible by the generous support of these donors:

St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Eva & Oakley Farris
The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Care Closet
The Durr Foundation
California Closets
Mayfield Foundation
Rami Leventhal

What We Do

Linking Community

Building on NKU's rich tradition of community engagement, the IHI seizes the opportunity to work with communities to change and improve lives by addressing population health challenges. The Institute believes we can solve the biggest, most important health challenges facing our communities by engaging with the people directly impacted.

Working Together

The Institute's focus on working together is a key piece of NKU's commitment to forging partnerships to address population health initiatives. When we come together, we can uncover breakthrough solutions to our society's most challenging population health problems.

Innovative Solutions

Working with our campus and community partners, we are making investments in health entrepreneurship, innovation and education. We encourage our community to envision the future of health care and help us transform what we do to better equip, empower and, most importantly, inspire health workers of tomorrow.

Community Partners

- 15th Judicial Circuit Court
- Aviatra Accelerators
- Boone County Library
- California Closets
- Carroll County Memorial Hospital
- Carroll County Schools
- Carroll County Reentry Services
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Medical Center
- Dress for Success
- Frost Brown Todd
- Gallatin County High School
- Girl Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road
- Gravity Diagnostics
- Kentucky Department of Corrections-Reentry Programs
- Leaders Out Front
- Mental Health America
- MORTAR
- Newport High School
- Newport Public Library
- NKY Agency for Substance Abuse Policy
- Northern Kentucky Area Development District
- Northern Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy
- NorthKey Community Care
- Owen County Drug Prevention Coalition
- Owen County Emergency Medical Services
- Owen County Schools
- Pendleton County High School
- Rudler
- Square1
- St. Elizabeth Healthcare
- The CARE Closet
- Thompson Hine
- Three Rivers District Health Department
- Triad Health Systems
- University of Louisville
- Wunderfund

Awards and Grants Received

Dynamicare: $43,643
HRSA Implementation: $1,000,000
HRSA Opioid Workforce - $847,000
IIR OUD Partnership: $750,000
i6 - $1,400,000
NKY ASAP: $4,000
RISE Grant: $143,000
Rural Teen Science Café - $2,000

Revenue and Expenses FY-20

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

Grants	$4,046,643
Contributions	$150,000
Program Revenue	$434
Central Funding	$376,553
Carryforward	$7,109
Grant Overhead	$26,833
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	**$4,607,572**

Expenses

Compensation	$427,466
Operating	$48,903
Faculty Fellows	$18,000
Travel	$13,573
Grant Expenses	$365,877
Total Expenses	**$873,819**

Program Highlights

Social Determinants of Health Applied Research

"Where Community Matters!"

An hour's drive from Northern Kentucky University lies Owen County, Kentucky. With just over 10,000 residents, Owen County is a rural area with numerous lakes, streams and rolling ridges. Residents of Owen County are almost three times more likely to die of a drug overdose than the rest of the United States (NORC Opioid Community Assessment, 2013—2017).

After a year of planning, the Owen County Collaborative Addiction Treatment Initiative launched the Owen County Recovery Services team. Care Coordinator Shanna Osborne and QRT/Re-entry Specialist Donal Salchli work with the community to provide support through recovery. The Care Coordinator and QRT/Re-entry Specialist built trust with the community, increased the number of clients served, and helped clients navigate the intimidating and confusing process of getting care.

Media Coverage

NKU Joins Fight Against Opioid Epidemic in Owen County. Cincinnati Public Radio. 31 January 2020.

Q&A with Shanna Osborne, Owen County community care coordinator. Owenton News-Herald. 14 March 2020.

Carroll & Owen Partnership Expansion (COPE)

This initiative, co-funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State Justice Institute, supports a six-month planning phase to identify current gaps in prevention, treatment and recovery services for individuals who encounter the criminal justice system within the target rural service area.

During the 18-month implementation phase, we will initiate new activities or augment existing efforts to strengthen epidemiologic surveillance and public health data infrastructure, implement effective community-level opioid overdose prevention activities; establish or enhance public safety, public health and behavioral health collaborations; and expand peer recovery and recovery support services to help people start and stay in recovery.

Media Coverage

Federal Grant Creates Northern Kentucky University's Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic Program. Northern Kentucky Tribune. 9 February 2020.

Partnership with Children's Hospital

Children's is teaming up with nine institutions, including NKU and the Rheumatic Heart Disease Research Collaborative in Uganda, to develop mobile technologies and increase evidence-based care for patients with rheumatic heart disease. The partnership will establish innovative health care practices and technologies for those living with the disease.

"This project is extremely important in our current environment, and it allows our faculty and students to engage in a large, multi-disciplinary, international research project," said Dr. Valerie Hardcastle, Institute for Health Innovation executive director and vice president for Health Innovation at NKU. "Our students have opportunities to work on this project locally and in Africa."

Media Coverage

NKU Partners with Children's Hospital on Heart Disease Research. River City News. 15 June 2020.

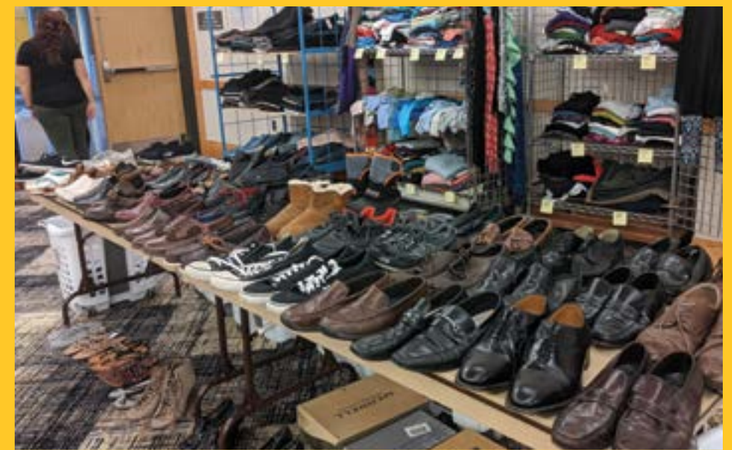
Student Health

Geek Your Health

In the 2018 America's Health Rankings Report, Kentucky ranks 50th in the nation for adult physical activity. We wanted to find a way to make exercise fun for residents of Northern Kentucky. The idea for Geek Your Health came about as a way to connect the community's enthusiasm for geek culture with new exercise programs.

Geek Your Health is full of themed fitness events built around popular television shows, comics, films and video games. Much of geek culture also addresses mental health issues so the program grew from exercise programs into incorporating mental wellness as well. Attendees are encouraged to "let their geek flag fly" and wear fandom-themed workout gear and talk about the fandom before, during and after the events. More than 100 northern Kentuckians have participated in programs to date.

Aspiring Jedis train in the Health Innovation Center. The Northerner. 26 February 2020.



The Care Closet at NKU

The Care Closet at NKU offered free clothing to NKU students during the FUEL NKU Thanksgiving Dinner and at a pop-up shop on Feb. 24 to assist students in finding appropriate interview wear for the Career Fair.

These temporary pop-up events will become permanent at a location in the University Center. The space is being renovated through donations from California Closets and supported by the Care Closet, a non-profit organization in Newport that supports students across our region in accessing clothing. The permanent location is planning to launch in fall 2020.

Health Leaders Workforce Development

New Certificate Programs

Online Health Commercialization Certificate Program

As part of the EDA i6 grant, the Institute of Health Innovation has developed an 18-credit post-baccalaureate certificate in Health Care Commercialization, the nation's first certificate program on how the "business of health care" operates. This program will provide those who work in the supply side of health care with the knowledge and skills they need to bring an innovation in health care to market. It will help prepare those pursuing careers in health care to succeed in today's entrepreneurial economy, where innovation is a primary driver of success, as it simultaneously meets a regional (and national) need for health-related innovation and entrepreneurship. This program is scheduled to begin in October 2020 as part of NKU's suite of accelerated on-line programs for professionals.

Peer Support Specialist Certificate

In collaboration with the College of Health and Human Services, the IHI is developing an on-line microcredential for Kentucky certification to be a peer support specialist that can be applied toward a degree in Human Services and Addictions. The goal is to create a clearer path for career advancement for those who start as peer support specialists. With the support of an HRSA-OWEP grant, all students enrolled in this program will receive full scholarships for tuition and fees. The program is set to launch in fall 2020.

Future Health Leaders

In 2019-2020, the demand for our pipeline programs grew exponentially. We scheduled field trips for 950 students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these highly anticipated field trips were canceled. We still reached 209 students through on-campus field trips and 202 students through field trip alternatives.

Middle School Health Careers Exploration

Middle School Health Careers Exploration focuses on showing students the variety of health careers in the community. The program encourages faculty to participate and engages members of the community working in their fields to share their career journey with students.

90%
of students were interested or very interested in attending college after a middle school field trip.

High School Field Trips

Since fall 2019, more than 500 students visited the Health Innovation Center for a full day of health care programming–including a visit to the St. Elizabeth Simulation Center, Radiology Lab and a tour of NKU's campus and new Health Innovation Center.

100%
of students enjoyed the Health Communication presentation demonstrating that students are becoming interested in the variety of health majors offered at NKU.

Teen Health Science Café

A series of free, fun events for high school students to talk with local scientists and engineers about current cutting-edge ideas in science and technology over food and refreshments.

The program is now offered at Newport Public Library, Owen County High School, Gallatin County High School and Pendleton County High School. Through a grant from NKY ASAP, presentations for fall 2020 will focus on addiction-related topics. The majority of attendees at Teen Health Science Cafés are 9th and 10th graders, which allows us to reach students before they make critical decisions about their future careers.

92%
of students described the Teen Health Science Café presentations as "good" or "excellent."

Living Healthier in 2020: Trading Toxic Stress for Hope

A Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Symposium

The Living Healthier in 2020 event brought prominent mental health professionals from the northern Kentucky and Ohio area to speak with adults and children in two separate tracks. Adults who attended listened to three separate speakers discuss life stressors, childhood adversity and socio-environmental influence on mental health. During this time, children toured the Health Innovation Center's Simulation Labs, discussed transition to college which can affect mental health and practiced the Ask, Care, Tell exercise.

Doctor for a Day

The Girl Scouts Health Expo was an opportunity for Girl Scout Juniors (4th and 5th grade) to explore a variety of health careers. They visited the Health Innovation Center to meet real health professionals in four sessions over the course of the day.

Entrepreneurship & Innovation

i6 Challenge Grant

The IHI is the PI for the Northern Kentucky Health Innovation Initiative (NKY-HII), funded by a $1.4MM investment, including a $730,000 i6 Challenge grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The goal of NKY-HII is to create jobs and attract companies and talent in the health innovation sector to the eight-county northern Kentucky region. By aligning the region's top economic development, health care, university and startup accelerator assets, the NKY-HII will stimulate and commercialize health innovation.

With this grant, the IHI launched SoCap Accelerate, a Health Innovation Accelerator for northern Kentucky. The six-week program targets companies looking to solve a health problem in an innovative way who have a beta version of their product ready for testing. SoCap Accelerate helps these companies grow and scale their businesses. Structured around the resources in northern Kentucky and the needs of our communities, the goal is to make Kentucky a healthier commonwealth.

Media Coverage

NKU Launches Health Innovation Accelerator. The Lane Report. 14 February 2020.

Awarded $18,000 to 6 IHI Faculty Fellows

As part of our initiatives to enhance health innovation, we offer two bi-annual funding opportunities for Northern Kentucky University faculty through the IHI Faculty Fellows program. The seed grants provide support for faculty research, scholarship, creative endeavors or teaching efforts in health, health literacy, health care and the social determinants of health. The Branch Awards provide support for faculty in moving from discussion of interdisciplinary collaboration to action, which will heighten their professional visibility or the impact of NKU in the fields of health, health literacy, health care or the social determinants of health.

- **CHRISTINE PERDAN CURRAN** for Collaborative Analysis Framework to Enhance Community Engagement in Chemical Risk Assessment Decision-Making for Contaminated Site Development
- **AMY HALBROOK** for Pro Bono Trip to Assist Children and Parents at Risk for Family Separation
- **JENNIFER KAISER** for Self-Directed Exercise in Adult Males and Females Engaged in Patient Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment
- **SUK-HEE KIM** for Opioid Overdose Community Data Tracking and First Responders Training Program
- **RAMI LEVENTHAL** for Saving Kentucky Hearts
- **MEGAN LINDSEY** for FUEL NKU HOPE

Vision for the Year Ahead

Access

Double the participation in our K-12 programs by increasing number of Middle School Health Careers Exploration and Simulation Center Field Trip dates, COVID-19 permitting.

Completion

Work with Brighton Center and campus planning to finalize housing plan for opportunity youth.

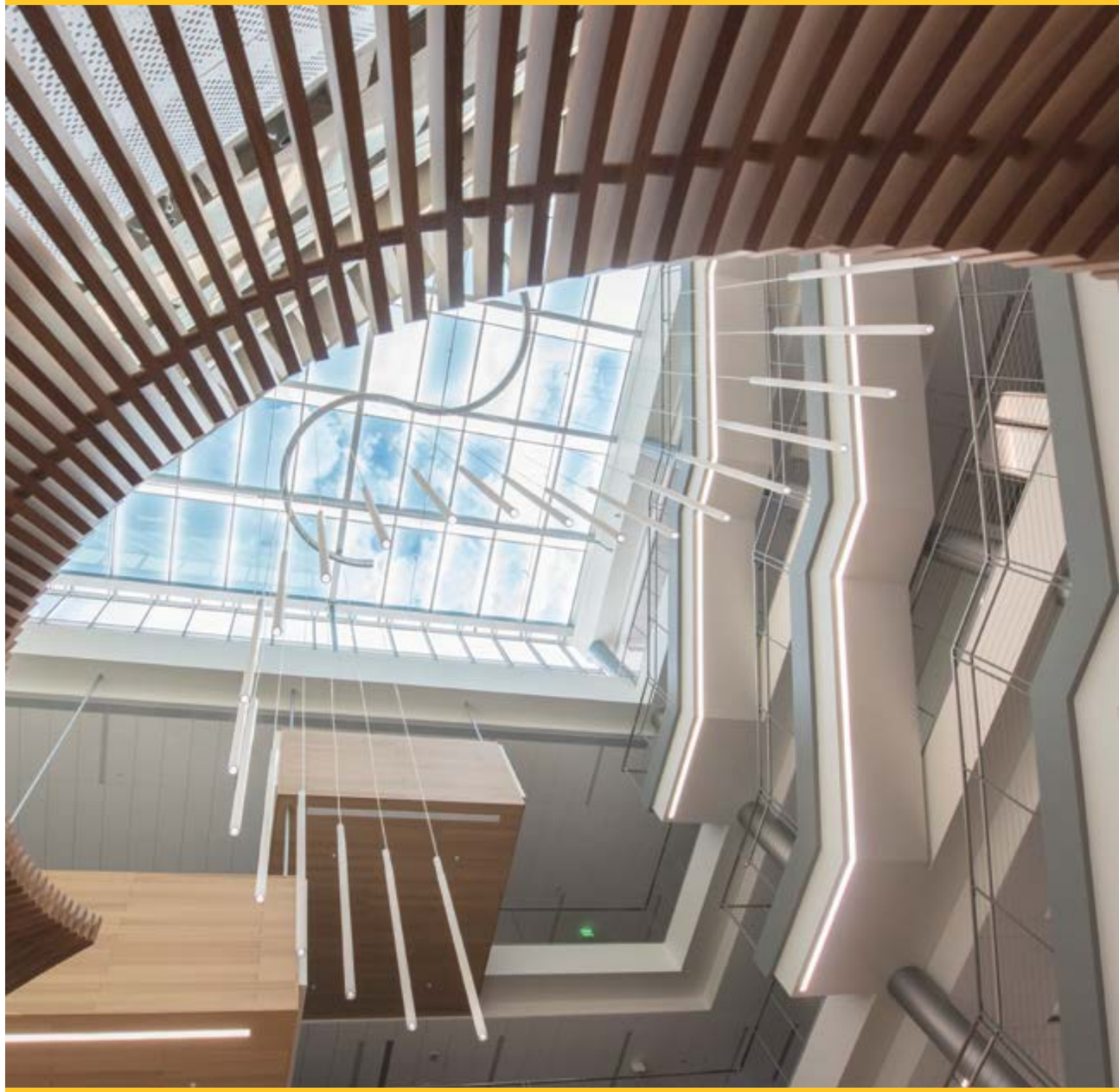
Community

Work with NKU's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the City of Covington and community partners to implement a front door and one-stop shop for entrepreneurs using a shared services model.

This publication was prepared by Northern Kentucky University and printed with state funds (KRS 57.375). Northern Kentucky University is committed to building a diverse faculty and staff for employment and promotion to ensure the highest quality of work force and to foster an environment that embraces the broad range of human diversity.

The university is committed to equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited. The university will provide equal opportunity to all employees in regard to salaries, promotions, benefits and working conditions and will monitor these areas to ensure that any differences which may exist are the result of bona fide policies and procedures and are not the result of illegal discrimination. MC200391



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