A decade ago, NKU had an ambitious vision: as technology began to change the world around us, what would happen if you combined all academic programs related to information and technology under one roof?

That grand experiment resulted in some big successes: the College of Informatics has become a national leader in cybersecurity and data science, a leader in the area of transdisciplinary education, and a college whose graduates are in demand by companies across the region, state, nation, and even the world.

"Informatics embraces most of what we do in the digital age: it is in the art, science, business and technology of information," said Dean Kevin Kirby. "In an age of innovation and digital transformation, we enable our students – and our region – to thrive."

Over the past decade, enrollment has more than doubled and continues to rise each year. The college now offers 15 degree programs, including a Bachelor’s in Data Science that was just the third such program in the nation.

The college has won national recognition for its Center for Applied Informatics virtual co-op program, which created the life-saving PulsePoint app that alerts first responders when someone nearby needs emergency care.

NKU was also the first university in Kentucky to be named a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In the decade ahead, the College of Informatics will continue to evolve and innovate, including in emerging fields such as Health Informatics, The Internet of Things, and security and privacy.
A CONVERSATION WITH COLONEL STEPHEN T. LING (’84)

Cybersecurity and cyberwarfare have been dominating the national headlines lately, but NKU alumnus Col. Stephen T. Ling (’84) has been on the front lines of the battle for the past three decades. During 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, he worked as an electronic warfare officer, instructor, evaluator, operations officer, squadron, group, and vice-wing commander, staff officer, and director.

Ling flew combat missions to jam enemy surface-to-air missile systems in Bosnia and Serbia, directed numerous surveillance missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and later served as Director of the STRATCOM Joint Electronic Warfare Center. He received a degree in computer science at NKU in 1984. “Between the opportunities presented in the Air Force and having grown up there in Northern Kentucky and having gone to NKU, I know our Northern Kentucky University graduates can and do compete at any level,” he said.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/features/2016/october/colonel-ling.html