GOLD RUSH

A group of NKU students are headed to our nation’s capital for a national environmental technology competition this spring. They are developing a mobile app designed to reduce the carbon footprint of the university’s more than 15,000 students.

The students, from several disciplines, will participate in the final phase of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) People, Prosperity, and Planet (P3) competition, where they will unveil the app prototype in April. This follows the initial round of the competition, after which the EPA awarded the group a $15,000 grant to develop the app.

In future phases of their project, students plan to create an app allowing drivers to monitor their pollution contribution and providing information on how pollution-saving decisions contribute to the community’s clean air.

Dr. Christine Curran, NKU associate professor of biological sciences, said she is impressed with how students worked together to accomplish a complex goal. “With NKU’s focus on transdisciplinary education, this project brings several disciplines to the table,” said Dr. Curran. “An environmental scientist can tell you how much pollution is out there, and what effect the pollution will have. The key is how we communicate to people to get out of their cars – use public transit and…walk around the corner instead of driving.”

Dr. Curran also pointed out the potential financial benefits of the research the students are conducting, both for NKU and companies looking to cut back spending without slashing budgets. “It costs roughly $22,000 for one parking spot in one parking garage,” she explained. “In turn, there is a great benefit in keeping cars off campus.”

STUDENTS TAKE CARBON FOOTPRINT APP TO D.C. FOR EPA COMPETITION

The Military Times has released its national Best for Vets list Business School rankings for 2015 and NKU has achieved a ranking in the top 30. “We are proud to once again be recognized as an institution that serves veterans and family members well,” said President Geoffrey Mearns. To achieve the national ranking, NKU completed the Best for Vets: Business School survey, a highly respected, nearly 80-question analysis of a graduate business school’s complete offerings for veterans.

LEARN MORE: http://tinyurl.com/NKU15vets

COLLEGE CORNER

HAILE/US BANK COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

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Don’t fear adventure. NKU senior Justin Wynne never has, and that brought him hundreds of miles from his Paducah home to NKU. And he says it was a great decision. Wynne is heavily involved in philanthropy through his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega; he is a member of the NKU Honors Program; and he also serves in the Student Government Association. The international studies and journalism double major has also participated in education abroad programs in Barbados and Fiji.

“Though I was accepted to a number of universities, I felt that NKU had a future that had yet to be defined, but possessed the potential to be something greater than it already was… It is truly nice to have professors who care for your personal success, and to have peers who are ambitious and creative to motivate you along the way,” he said.

LEARN MORE: http://www.nku.edu/features/2014/october/wynne.html

The NKU women’s basketball team advanced to the championship game of the Atlantic Sun Tournament, falling to No. 20 Florida Gulf Coast, 60-43, in the title game. Sophomore guard Shar’Rae Davis led the Norse with 18 points on 6-of-8 shooting in the title game, sinking six of her seven three-point attempts in just 21 minutes of play. The Norse finished the season 19-14 (8-6 A-Sun) and advanced to their third consecutive Women’s Basketball Invitational Tournament.

NKU has joined a select handful of peers across the country to pilot a new SCU (State College and University) messaging platform led by the AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities). The platform underscores, in one voice, the impact that state colleges and universities have on their communities and the nation. SCUs share three core values: high quality, accessible, and responsible. Through the pilot program, Northern helped to identify and develop these common attributes and to articulate them in a way that tells the special story of our nation’s SCUs.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_150326scu.html

Matt Wallin, a senior majoring in social studies education, has been awarded top honors for his paper “Intellectual Crosscurrents of the Black Atlantic: Pan Africanism and Civil Rights in the Time of the Cold War” by the prize committee of the World History Association. “Winning an international paper prize helped me to understand just how much I have grown as student and really as a person while at NKU,” Wallin said. “It reinforced my belief that with hard work and dedicated faculty you really can do whatever you put your mind to. NKU set me up for success.”

LEARN MORE: http://www.nku.edu/news/_150317history.html

Several NKU students and alumni brought home Gold and Silver awards as individuals and members of teams in the 2015 American Advertising Federation chapter awards, presented this spring. NKU student and alumni were awarded individual prizes for their work on collateral materials, packaging and logo design, consumer/trade publications, integrated branding campaigns, and photography. Several alumni were part of winning teams in the professional category.

LEARN MORE: http://nku.edu/news/_150313addys.html

Cameron Sumner (‘14) wanted to be closer to western Kentucky to work on her oral history project about the now-defunct town of Paradise, Ky., so she enrolled in the NKU Master of Arts in Public History program. The 24-year-old from Muhlenberg County, found here what she describes as an “incredibly inspiring and fruitful academic community.” Not only was she able to continue her education and her project, but she also found teachers and mentors devoted to her success—educators who helped her land an outstanding opportunity after graduating from the program. She was recently named program assistant at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. She will help prepare for and facilitate workshops that teach educators from around the world how to teach the Holocaust in their respective classrooms.

LEARN MORE: HTTP://NKHU.EDU/FEATURES/2015/MARCH/SUMNER.HTML