

House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education
January 27, 2022

#### **NKU Presenters**

Ashish K. Vaidya, *President* 

Carmen Hickerson, Assistant Vice President, Economic Engagement and Government Relations

On Zoom Link

- Syed Zaidi, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Management
- Mary Paula Schuh, Sr. Director, Planning, Design & Construction

#### **NKU Overview**

- Fall 2021 Enrollment: 15,994
- 73,000 Alumni
  - 82% still live in NKY region
- 1,800 degrees/credentials conferred (May 2021)
  - Bachelor's degrees increased 12% in ten years
- 42% of undergraduate students first generation
  - 30% are PELL eligible





### **Success by Design**

- Three pillars of success: access, completion, and career and community engagement
- NKU is a student-ready, regionally engaged university
- NKU works closely in partnership with businesses and organizations in our region to grow the workforce and economy





# **Performance Funding Allocation**

- Pays it forward: investment in the future of the Commonwealth
- Performance Funding Model
  - Challenges institutions to meet 60X30 goal
    - More graduates
    - More STEM+H degrees
    - Serve more first generation and under-represented minority students
- Enables strategic investments supporting student success



### **2020 Campus Master Plan**

- Closely linked to Success by Design
- Envisions a sustainable approach by renewing and expanding NKU's legacy buildings
- Prioritizes projects that support academic success, the student experience, and NKU's competitive advantage in STEM+H and the arts
- Completed during pandemic, so takes into account changes in educational delivery and advocates for flexible design to support active learning

### **2020 Campus Master Plan**

- Confirmed significant space shortages in lab and experiential learning categories, and student engagement space
- Stressed need for interdisciplinary labs, maker spaces, and modern labs for engineering technology



## Science Center Expansion – Capital Priority

- Credit hours in the basic sciences up 69% in five years
- Fall 2021 applications for admission in basic sciences and engineering technology up 32%
  - NKU's engineering technology programs highest enrollment in Commonwealth
- Expansion addresses shortage in experiential learning and research lab space
  - NKU has less than 50% of the science space than KY regional campuses (sq. ft. per student)



### **Science Center Expansion: Why Now?**





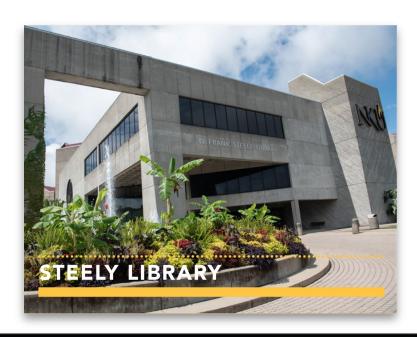
- Regional demand addresses urgent need for employees skilled in STEM fields
  - Supports health sciences expansion by opening up basic science lab space
- Relocation of engineering technology frees up space in other buildings for future growth

### **NKU Student Success in the Sciences**

- NKU's STEM graduates successful in professional school admissions, graduate school and research positions
- Undergraduate research:
  - In a typical year, nearly 2,600 students participate in research and/or creative activity with NKU faculty members
  - About 60% of Chemistry and 20% of Biology majors are involved in scientific research
  - Externally funded research is key to having opportunities for student research, as is space and equipment
    - Current research spaces are used to maximum capacity

### **Critical Asset Preservation Needs**

- NKU's 1970's era legacy buildings have critical repair needs
  - Scope of need exceeds available university funds
  - Fine Arts Center, Steely Library and Nunn Hall will be primary focus





#### **Asset Preservation Needs**

#### Types of Projects:

- Elimination of structural issues due to subsurface shale
- HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems replacement
- Elevator and life safety upgrades
- Foundation leak repairs
- Underground gas and sewer line replacements
- Concrete and asphalt repairs

#### **NKU's Return on Investment**

- NKU is committed to meeting the Commonwealth's growing need for a workforce skilled in high-demand fields such as STEM, healthcare, engineering and technology
  - 40% of NKU students
     STEM+H majors
- An investment in NKU is an investment in the Commonwealth



