

NKU Once Again Sets National Entrepreneurship Standard



Highland Heights, KY – Northern Kentucky University’s Fifth Third Bank Entrepreneurship Institute has received the 2007 National Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (NCEC) Award for *Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation*. The award is presented each year to Centers committed to maximizing current and future student benefits through excellence in teaching and pedagogy. Excellence is demonstrated by activities that change and improve the way entrepreneurship is taught and learned and by expanding the potential in the field through affiliated faculty and instructors whose teaching approaches seek to create a broader skill-set to equip entrepreneurial thinkers. The selection committee this year included previous NCEC Excellence Award winners from St. Louis University, Syracuse University, University of Maryland, University of

North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, Indiana University, University of Colorado – Boulder, Boston University and University of California – Berkeley.

The award was presented at the 11th annual NCEC conference at Syracuse University earlier this month. The purpose of the NCEC conference, which began in 1997, is to provide university educators from across the United States the opportunity to collaborate on such topics as entrepreneurship education, research, fundraising, and outreach programs.

“This award is a representation of the great accomplishments of Northern Kentucky University as recognized by its peers across the nation – there is no greater honor,” said Dr. Donald F. Kuratko, The Jack M. Gill Chair of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Entrepreneurship & Executive Director of the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Indiana University-Bloomington. Dr. Kuratko is also one of the co-founders of the National Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers.

The Fifth Third Bank Entrepreneurship Institute at Northern Kentucky University is in its eighth year and is currently the only school in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to offer a major in entrepreneurship. The Institute also offers a minor in entrepreneurship to students from across campus, a graduate specialization for MBA and MSIS students and a post-baccalaureate certificate. The minor and certificate are offered in both traditional and fully on-line formats. The Entrepreneurship Institute connects students to the discipline of entrepreneurship not only through the classroom, but also by providing experiential learning experiences, such as internships, guest speakers, and the student designed Master Entrepreneur Awards Celebration.

Last year, the Entrepreneurship Institute was named one of the nation’s 25 best entrepreneurship programs by *Entrepreneur magazine* and The Princeton Review.

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