

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

BETTER HEALTH FOR KENTUCKY
TOGETHER



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am proud to share our 2023-2024 Annual Report reflecting on our sixth year of the Institute for Health Innovation at Northern Kentucky University and everything we have done over the past twelve months.

We had \$10 million in active grants and contracts, which we used to:

- support the Initiative for HealthCare Entrepreneurship and Innovation (IHEI),
- help St. Elizabeth Healthcare to expand its school-based health telemedicine program to rural counties in Northern Kentucky and expand telehealth options for mental health treatment with NorthKey Community Care,
- reduce the morbidity and mortality of substance misuse by enhancing rural residents' access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support,
- increase the reach of our K-12 pipeline programs,
- and start a rural nursing program in Grant County for students in the surrounding area.

This year we supported 53 health-related startups and Series A companies in the region, helping them to raise over \$18 million in capital, file 35 patents, launch 4 new products, license 2 new technologies, and create or retain over 275 jobs. We also dispersed \$350,000 in scholarships and paid internships for students in behavioral health and hosted over 1,500 youth on campus to help expand the healthcare worker pipeline to NKU.

I wish to thank all our many community partners and supporters. I know I speak for all of us at the IHI when I say that the tremendous support we have received from everyone around us does more than make our work possible; it makes it uplifting, rewarding, exciting, and meaningful. The IHI team simply could not do what it does without the community coming together to collaborate with us. We thank you.

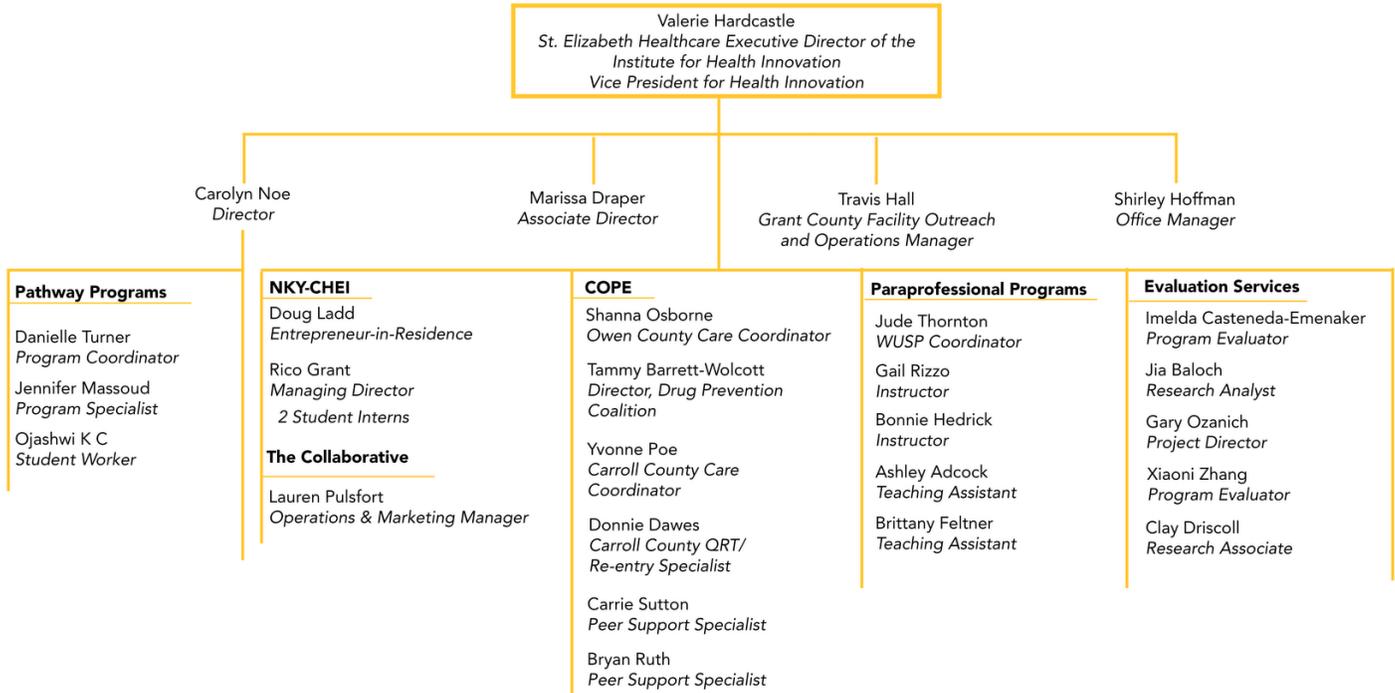
Sincerely,
Valerie Gray Hardcastle

IHI IS DRIVING CHANGE

The Institute for Health Innovation (IHI) at NKU pioneers solutions to the health challenges facing Northern Kentucky. We drive change that directly addresses urgent unmet health needs.



WHO WE ARE



WHAT WE DO

IMPROVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Growing Rural Capacity
- Developing New Paraprofessional Providers
- Improving the Support System
- New Approaches in Medicaid

SUPPORTING FUTURE HEALTH LEADERS

- Providing Health Career Pathways for High School Students
- Introducing Elementary and Middle School Students to Health Careers
- Initiating Grant County BSN Program

GROWING THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

- Supporting Regional Entrepreneurship
- Expanding Faculty Innovation
- Advancing Biomedical Innovation

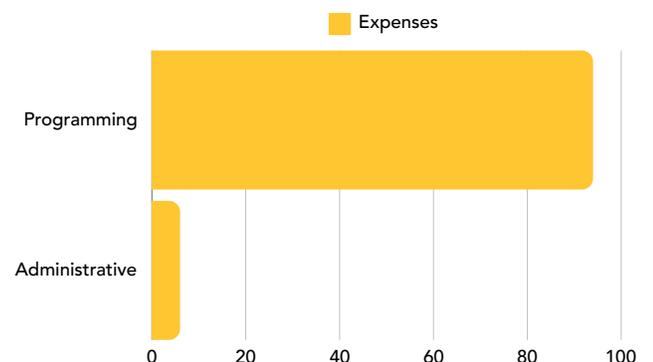
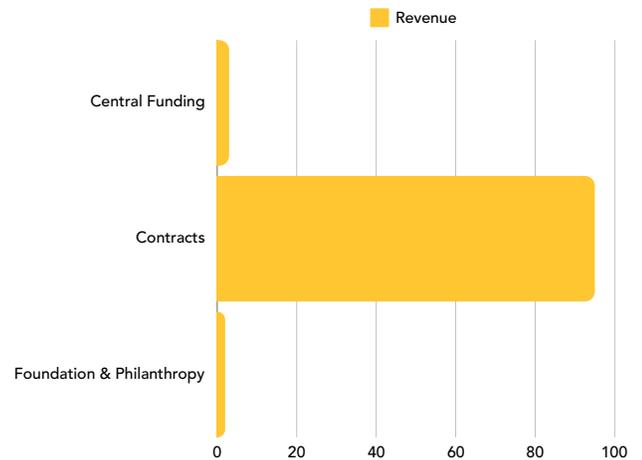
FINANCIALS

ACTIVE GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

| Program | Grant Amount |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| EDA University Center grant | \$1,096,178 |
| HRSA-RCORP Implementation III | \$1,000,000 |
| HRSA OIFSP | \$2,400,000 |
| HRSA OWEF | \$837,000 |
| HRSA Community Health Worker Training Program | \$2,876,377 |
| JCOIN | \$99,900 |
| Kentucky 1115 Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Project Evaluation | \$1,500,000 |
| Kentucky Health Worker Collaborative | \$599,999 |
| RealWorks/Dynamicare | \$21,525 |
| Summertime Kids (Greater Cincinnati Foundation) | \$1,000 |
| USDA Rural Business Development Enterprise Grant | \$99,000 |
| USDA Telehealth and Telemedicine | \$210,210 |
| Interact for Health | \$50,000 |
| The Health Collaborative | \$5,000 |
| Fitness for Life Around Grant County | \$5,000 |

REVENUE AND EXPENSES FY 24

| Revenue | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Foundation & Philanthropy | \$167,400 |
| Grants & Contracts | \$10,801,189 |
| Central Funding | \$346,295 |
| Program Revenue | \$16,237 |
| Total Revenue | \$11,331,121 |
| Expenses | |
| Total Expenses | \$2,395,185 |
| Net Income | \$8,935,195 |



DONORS

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

THE DURR FOUNDATION
 EVA & OAKLEY FARRIS
 CITY OF COVINGTON
 THE GREATER CINCINNATI FOUNDATION
 HERITAGE BANK
 RAMI LEVENTHAL
 ST. ELIZABETH HEALTHCARE

IMPROVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

GROWING RURAL CAPACITY

This year our team assisted over 550 individuals with Substance Use Disorder in rural Northern Kentucky. We are especially proud of the new youth support program we have developed in collaboration with the Carroll County school district.

The American Public Health Administration featured the Institute for Health Innovation's dedicated efforts to tackle substance misuse and abuse in Owen and Carroll County at their annual conference. [The video they developed](#) highlights the challenges posed by limited transportation options a scarcity of nearby urgent care facilities and hospitals and the IHI's response. The IHI has strategically placed care coordinators to support county residents with their healthcare needs and implemented targeted programs within schools, aiming to proactively prevent substance use disorders. These innovative approaches address the unique needs of the community, demonstrating the Institute for Health Innovation's commitment to fostering a healthier, more resilient society.

Media Coverage

NKU working to increase addiction recovery resources, awareness in rural communities

February 15 2024

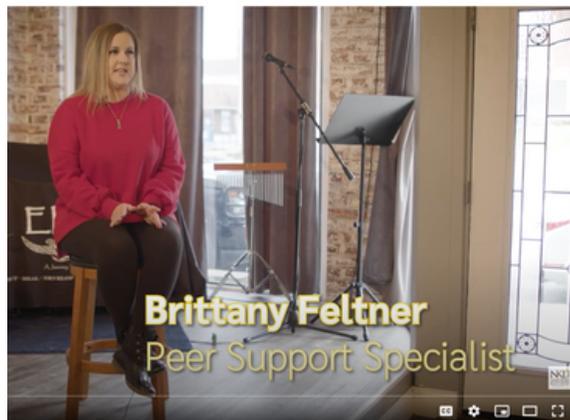
<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/finding-solutions/nku-working-to-increase-addiction-recovery-resources-awareness-in-rural-communities>

DEVELOPING NEW PARAPROFESSIONALS

Peer Support Specialist Certificate

Since starting the on-line certification program for Kentucky Adult Peer Support Specialists program in 2019, we have certified 1,068 students from around the Commonwealth to serve as peer supports for those struggling with Substance Use Disorder or mental health issues. We are now also offering free continuing education units (CEUs) for Kentucky Peer Supports through NKU's Community Connections program.

In collaboration with NKU's own Norse Media, we released a [video highlighting](#) the experiences of Peer Support Specialists we have trained. These specialists, in recovery themselves, now provide essential social and emotional support to others wanting to follow a similar path. The program equips participants with a diverse skill set, spanning recovery principles, communication, goal setting, and more.



Working with Underserved Populations Scholarship Programs

The IHI is now offering two different federally funded programs to support training behavioral health paraprofessionals who work with underserved families. These programs provide scholarship funding, paid internship or field placement experiences, and up to two years of a paid apprenticeship upon graduation from NKU. Students in Human Services and Addiction, Counseling, Social Work, and Psychology are eligible.

The Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program (OIFSP) supports students wishing to support with youth and families impacted by Substance Use Disorder as their career. Over 95 students have now been enrolled in this program. And the Community Health Worker Training Program (CHWTP) supports students wishing to support underserved youth, families, and communities in our region. Twenty-one students are currently enrolled.

Grant County Nurse Program

With a \$600,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we are supporting renovation at the NKU Grant County facility to be able to provide a new and innovative rural nurse program (BSN) there, with a special focus on expanding the healthcare workforce in the rural counties of Northern Kentucky. Construction for a skills lab and health assessment lab is getting underway!

IMPROVING HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

IMPROVING THE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Telehealth Program

The IHI received a grant from the USDA to bring telemedicine and telehealth to the rural counties of Northern Kentucky, in partnership with the Three Rivers District Health Department, NorthKey Community Care, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare. With this grant, Three Rivers can now offer sophisticated telemedicine examinations and diagnoses from all their county offices, NorthKey has expanded its laptop lending program for clients to be able to receive psychological support via telehealth in the privacy of their own homes, and St. Elizabeth Healthcare's School Based Health Telemedicine Program is now available in all Northern Kentucky's rural public schools. And NKU has a telehealth/telemedicine training site in Campbell Hall for any program on campus to utilize.

Media Coverage

NKU St. Elizabeth partner to expand health care access for rural Kentuckians
October 3 2023

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/finding-solutions/nku-st-elizabeth-partner-to-expand-health-care-access-for-rural-kentuckians>



30 EVENTS

2,071 PARTICIPANTS

AmplifyNKYou

Through funding from Interact for Health's Amplifying Youth Voice in Mental Health grant, we offered \$500 grants to NKU student organizations for planning their own mental health programming. Groups hosted over 25 events ranging from meditation to a first-ever marketplace to foster social connection in a post-quarantine environment. The program also funded Student Wellness Ambassadors who contributed hundreds of hours to improving wellness for their peers through presentations on health topics.

Media Coverage

Sharks on campus? NKU scuba club and wave foundation bring sharks to campus
March 25 2024

<https://www.thenortherner.com/arts-and-life/2024/03/25/sharks-on-campus-nku-scuba-club-and-wave-foundation-bring-sharks-to-campus/>

Scenes from Norse Marketplace
April 24 2024

<https://www.thenortherner.com/arts-and-life/2024/04/24/scenes-from-norse-marketplace/>

SUPPORTING FUTURE HEALTH LEADERS

K-12 PROGRAMS

**178
students**

Teen Health Science Cafe

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

**110
Girl Scouts**

Girl Scouts Doctor for a Day

The Girls Scouts of Kentucky's Wilderness Road visit medical labs and take a look at healthcare and medical professions.



**784
students**

Cadaver Lab Experience Field Trips

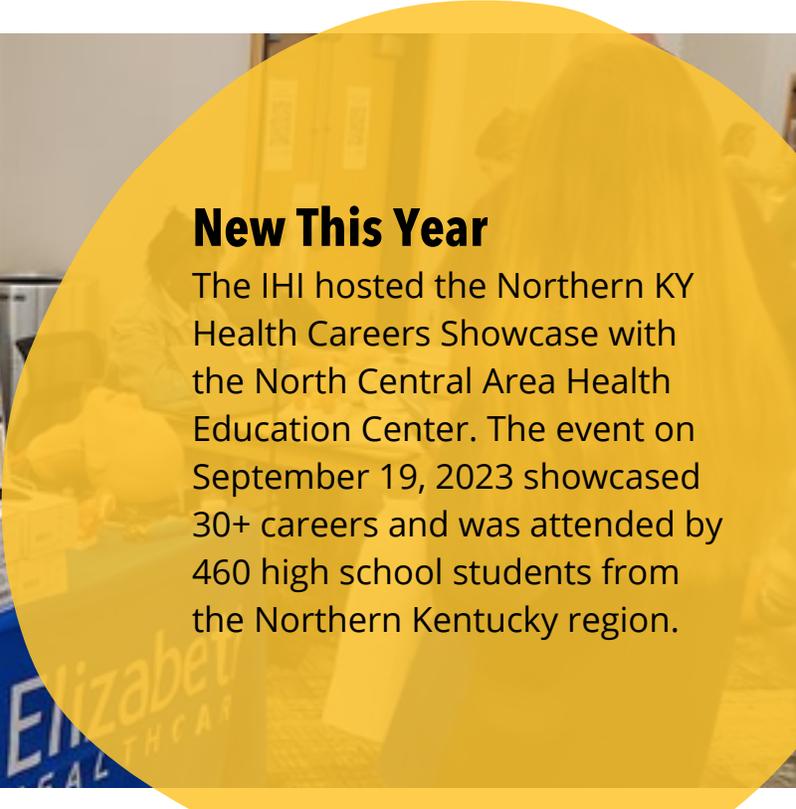
High school students visit the prosectorium and gain hands-on experience with human anatomy and physiology.

**2,457
students**

Discovery Kits

Provides elementary school teachers with interactive and fun lesson plans, corresponding activities and materials for students to learn about in-demand careers.

SUPPORTING FUTURE HEALTH LEADERS



New This Year

The IHI hosted the Northern KY Health Careers Showcase with the North Central Area Health Education Center. The event on September 19, 2023 showcased 30+ careers and was attended by 460 high school students from the Northern Kentucky region.

Media Coverage

Girl Scouts become 'Doctors for a Day' at healthcare event
February 19 2024
<https://www.fox19.com/2024/02/19/girl-scouts-become-doctors-day-healthcare-event/>

NKU, Girl Scouts partner for event aimed at tackling health care worker shortage
February 19 2024
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wv-VIree0

A LOOK AHEAD

The Institute for Health Innovation is expanding our P-12 initiatives and creating a centralized P-12 Pathway Programs Hub to

- Examine and understand data NKU's campus-wide P-12 programs' impact
- Expand pathway programming to reach more students in grades P-8, and
- Support and expand on collaborative events across campus and in the community.



COMING IN...

Fall 2024

College Cafés – Teen Health Science Cafés are becoming College Cafés to expand content topics to include other in-demand careers and information on the college admissions process.

Spring 2025

Gifted & Talented Program Revival - Programs from the Institute for Talent Development find their new home with the IHI, including Innovation Pathways to College Enrichment Program, DreamFest, and Middle School Leadership Symposium.

Summer 2025

Camp Nurse Returns – Elementary students from the tri-state region participate in day camps for a summer of fun and academic enrichment.

GROWING THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Our initiatives in health care innovation aim to support and attract companies, jobs, and talent in the health innovation sector to Northern Kentucky. They stimulate and help commercialize health innovation by aligning our top economic development, healthcare, university, and startup assets. Over the past 6 years, we have assisted over 110 regional startups in raising over \$450 million in capital investments. SoCap Accelerate, our pre-Series A accelerator for health-related companies, successfully graduated their seventh and eight cohorts. We also support NKU's Healthcare Commercialization graduate certificate program, available through the College of Business.

SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The IHI supports and manages the Northern Kentucky University Collaborative for Economic Engagement, the key connector for entrepreneurs, private sector leaders, investors, educational programs, incubators, accelerators, governmental and economic development organizations, and non-profits. Housed at 112 Pike Street in Covington, it is a one-stop shop for advice and support for budding entrepreneurs to help them meet the specific challenges facing the northern Kentucky innovation ecosystem.

Partners include: Aviatra Accelerators, BlueNorth, City of Covington, Chase Center for Small Business and Non-Profits, ECDI, the IHI Health Care Entrepreneur-in-Residence, KeyHorse Capital, NKU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, SoCap Accelerate, and Square1.

EXPANDING FACULTY INNOVATION

Each year we provide grant funding to NKU Faculty Fellows projects.

Projects:

- Chris Curran for Heavy Metals Testing for Newport Community Partners
- Kim Yates and Jena Hinds for The Impact of Aromatherapy on Test Anxiety Among College Students: A Mixed Methods Investigation
- Nicholas Caporusso for an AI-driven Chatbot for Enhancing Interaction in Individuals with Communication Disabilities

ADVANCING BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION

The IHI is a member-partner in the Covington Life Sciences Partners, Inc. (CLSP), a non-profit corporation established to advance biomedical entrepreneurship and job creation in the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati region. With \$15 million in state funding, the soon-to-be opened Covington Life Science Lab will provide cost-effective research and development facilities with shared equipment, office space, and support for early-stage companies in life sciences industries.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Startup accelerator SoCap readies to showcase eighth cohort
May 8 2024
<https://www.bizjournals.com/cincinnati/innovation/news/2024/05/08/kentucky-healthcare-new-company-socap-innovation.html>



More than \$200,000 in grants awarded to local startups
September 26 2023
<https://www.soapboxmedia.com/innovationnews/main-street-ventures-awards-grants-startups.aspx>



OneNKY Center in Covington breaks ground
August 30 2023
<https://www.soapboxmedia.com/innovationnews/main-street-ventures-awards-grants-startups.aspx>



Institute for Health Innovation

nku.edu/ihi

Stay Connected



@nkuihi

**TOGETHER, WE CAN ACHIEVE BETTER HEALTH FOR KENTUCKY. TO
GET INVOLVED OR MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, CALL 859-572-5980.**