MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT NATE RITCHEY

Unbelievably, a year has passed since I joined the Kent State University family. During that time, I have been honored to lead the Kent State University Regional Campus system, while also being part of the extraordinary Kent Campus. The teaching and research that take place on our campuses every day touch the lives of our students, their families, and the citizens of northeast Ohio, the state and beyond. Our work is vital to the communities we serve, in great measure by ensuring a steady flow of educated citizens to a world that greatly needs them.

One Kent State University: Over the past year, we have made great progress addressing the recommendations at all Regional Campuses — forming student government organizations; implementing a leadership program open to all Kent State students; implementing a technology solution to offer more programs; and revising faculty expectations for research and scholarship.

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Kent State University at Ashtabula

Kent State University at Ashtabula is the only institution of higher learning in Ashtabula County and is conveniently located between Cleveland, Erie and Youngstown. The northernmost campus of Kent State University offers a variety of courses and both bachelor’s and associate degree programs for over 3,200 students. Kent State Ashtabula is the proud home of Ashtabula County’s only accredited nursing degree program and Ohio’s only wine degree program.

Kent State University at Geauga and the Kent State University Regional Academic Center

Kent State University at Geauga and the Kent State University Regional Academic Center (former Kent State Geauga) are located in Burton, Ohio. The school offers 17 associate, 10 bachelor’s and 1 master’s degree programs.

Kent State University at Stark

Kent State University at Stark offers the largest Regional Campus, featuring 100 beautiful acres. Centofanti Hall, the health and sciences building, is the heart of the campus experience near home for the residents of the local community. With nearly 2,100 students served annually, Kent State Stark offers 26 degree programs and 1,600 students annually.

Kent State University at Tuscarawas

Kent State University at Tuscarawas is the Regional College located in New Philadelphia, Ohio. The college offers 18 associate and 1 bachelor’s degree programs.

Kent State University at Trumbull

Kent State University at Trumbull is the only Kent State without a Regional Campus or programs. The Regional College is intangible, it offers the Regional College a unique appeal. With nearly 90 faculty researchers, instructors and staff, the Regional College has the best of all worlds: a small, economical campus experience near home supported by a large team of researchers, instructors and faculty: the Regional Colleges.
In providing our students with an inclusive and engaging learning environment — one in which they can thrive and graduate as informed citizens and productive leaders — the Regional Campuses have moved forward with a number of initiatives.

**PRIORITY 1: Students First**

- **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY REGIONAL CAMPUSES**

**ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION**

Programs and initiatives described in this section focus on increasing enrollment and retention rates. The Kent State University Office of Enrollment Management and the Kent State University Regional Campuses are working hard to boost enrollment, improve retention and increase graduation rates by focusing on data-driven decisions to pinpoint the best ways to improve those experiences for their students. Areas of focus include course schedule, assessing the need for updating program requirements, and providing mental health resources to support students during their educational journey.

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

All Regional Campuses have focused on new student recruitment and retention of current students. The campuses have increased recruitment by building partnerships with high schools to offer College Credit Plus opportunities on campus and in Northeast Ohio high schools. In addition, Kent State Tuscarawas is increasing partnerships with local businesses to broaden the recruitment of area workers who may not hold degrees. Kent State Stark has implemented innovative strategies to improve those experiences for their students and faculty. Kent State Trumbull plans to hire a data analyst to ensure that accurate information guides future decisions.

**DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS**

In their efforts to improve enrollment, retention and graduation rates, Regional Campuses have focused on data-driven decisions. Kent State Ashtabula uses data to assess recruitment and retention efforts and has advocated for specific data reporting for Regional Campuses. Kent State East Liverpool and Kent State Salem analyze their campus data to identify the most common reasons why students do not succeed and to address those issues. They also plan to conduct a survey to better identify course-scheduling options that work for their students and faculty. Kent State Trumbull plans to hire a data analyst to ensure that accurate information guides future decisions.

**ASSESSING COURSE OFFERINGS AND TEACHING**

During the 2016-2017 academic year, several campuses assessed their course offerings to determine the best scheduling for regional courses. Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga reviewed courses with high drop/fail-withdraw rates and developed plans for supplemental instruction and tutoring for those courses. Kent State Ashtabula also reviewed the Kent Math Imposition model to help students achieve their highest success rate in college math courses. Kent State Columbiana County campuses identified and offered financial aid to those students who may not hold degrees. Kent State Stark and Kent State Geauga are also working to improve those experiences for their students and faculty. Kent State Ashtabula examines scholarships and grants to provide a non-need-based master course schedule to help students plan their degree path. During Fall 2016 semester, Kent State Trumbull hosted a campus-wide symposium series on Engaged Pedagogy to discuss ways to increase student engagement. During the Spring 2017 semester, Kent State Trumbull faculty also engaged in a Community of Practice to support online teaching.

**SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH GRADUATION**

Many of the Regional Campus strategic plans include initiatives to improve the type and number of student support services. Support services help students improve their retention rates and encourage students to complete their degree and stay on track to graduation. The goal is to have mental health services available on all Regional Campuses by the start of the 2017-2018 academic year. Kent State Tuscarawas and Kent State Geauga are also working to improve those experiences for their students and faculty. Kent State Trumbull is expanding its services to students through collaborative recruitment efforts, a campus ministry and counseling services.

Students can take advantage of different options for academic support. Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga are expanding their supplemental instructional offerings, and Kent State Stark is creating opportunities for incoming students to complete their courses in a Summer Bridge program. Kent State Trumbull is expanding its course offerings, and Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga are offering financial literacy training, including workshops and online courses. Kent State Stark will provide online courses through a partnership with high schools and area community colleges. Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga are also working to improve those experiences for their students and faculty. Kent State Ashtabula examines scholarships and grants to provide a non-need-based master course schedule to help students plan their degree path. During Fall 2016 semester, Kent State Trumbull hosted a campus-wide symposium series on Engaged Pedagogy to discuss ways to increase student engagement. During the Spring 2017 semester, Kent State Trumbull faculty also engaged in a Community of Practice to support online teaching.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**LEADtogether**

LEADtogether is an initiative led by Kent State students from all eight campuses. The program, called LEADtogether, is a community of practice that encourages students to create and implement cutting-edge learning centers and programs that improve the lives of people in leading others.

- Kent State students from all eight campuses participated in the inaugural year of this innovative, virtual leadership academy. LEADtogether creates communities and learning opportunities for incoming students to develop their leadership skills.

- Each week, different students would lead their peers through virtual communities and online meetings. In this way, the program combines leadership with diversity training. This is the university’s only leadership program that enables students to include every campus and every campus to include all students in the program.

- The program curriculum requires students to participate in a series of online modules on leading others. In this way, the program combines leadership with diversity training. This is the university’s only leadership program that enables students to include every campus and every campus to include all students in the program.

- The program curriculum requires students to participate in a series of online modules on learning opportunities. These modules are designed to help students develop their leadership skills and improve their chances of success in college.

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Melissa Morrison

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
Kent State University is committed to providing students with opportunities to apply their classroom learning in practical settings, thereby enhancing their educational experience and preparing them for real-world professional roles. The Regional Campuses play a significant role in this process by offering a wide range of internships and experiential learning opportunities. These experiences allow students to gain practical skills, build professional networks, and explore potential career paths.

Melissa Morrison, a Kent State Geauga student, provides a compelling example of the benefits of off-campus learning. When Melissa first enrolled at the campus, she was undecided about her major. However, after participating in an internship program offered by the Criminal Justice major at Kent State Geauga, Melissa discovered her passion for the field. This experience not only reinforced her decision to major in Criminal Justice but also sparked an interest in law enforcement.

One of the most successful internship programs across the Regional Campuses is the Campus Connect 2 Complete program. This initiative offers Kent State students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience while earning college credit.

Campus Connect 2 Complete helps students transition from the classroom to the workplace. The program pairs Kent State students with local employers, allowing them to complete internships that align with their academic goals. This hands-on experience is invaluable as it provides students with real-world skills and knowledge that they can apply in their future careers.

The Regional Campuses are dedicated to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to engage in meaningful off-campus learning experiences. Whether through internships, externships, or community service projects, these experiences are designed to complement classroom learning and enhance students’ perspectives on the world.

In conclusion, the Regional Campuses at Kent State University are committed to preparing students for success in their future careers. By offering a variety of internship and experiential learning opportunities, the Regional Campuses help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in their chosen fields.
As part of strengthening Kent State’s distinctive national reputation, we work to drive innovation and ideas generation through top-tier academic programs, innovative research and the recruitment and development of talented faculty and staff. A number of changes and additions on our campuses will help exemplify our university’s national status and improve the educational experience for students and educators.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
The Regional Campuses embrace faculty research and strive for innovative ideas to forward their campus goals. Through these endeavors, students experience the best that Kent State has to offer while expanding opportunities for students. Kent State has developed a wealth of innovative ideas for magnetic studies. Spin-coupled coordination clusters have potential for future use in magnetic refrigeration, quantum computing and nanotechnology.

Faculty Research
Regional Campus faculty engage in meaningful research every day. Their work improves all aspects of life, from water quality to healthcare delivery. At Kent State East Liverpool, Professor Brian Castellani, Ph.D., specializes in a systems science approach to public health. He looks at the impact of water on humans’ mental development and overall health. “Manufacturing practices from decades ago can still have an impact on the water we use today,” he says.

Professor Castellani’s study of the interaction between healthcare systems and other societal systems or issues (such as poverty, a person’s physical living environment, transportation, environmental pollution and education) comprises a “systems” approach to public health issues. Through his work, he hopes to help doctors better understand the barriers their patients face.

Several campuses will explore the feasibility of adding new degree offerings. Kent State Ashtabula hopes to add a Veterinary Technology Program at Kent State Ashtabula, and Kent State Tuscarawas to explore offering the Veterinary Technology program. Kent State Geauga will assess the feasibility of offering an agritourism degree program. Kent State Stark will continue to fund a research and teaching council, and Kent State Trumbull sets aside a faculty development fund to support research activities.

Research and innovation at Kent State
Associate Professor Qunxing Ding, Ph.D., researches the molecular biology of neurological degenerative diseases, particularly late-onset Alzheimer’s disease and aging, protein synthesis and degradation mechanisms.

Ding’s teaching roles at Kent State East Liverpool and his research interests have come together in a community research project that began as a biology class assignment to measure the quality of water collected from classroom faucets and the Ohio River. The project has extended beyond the campus, inviting the surrounding community to bring in samples from kitchen faucets, wells, ponds, streams and rivers so they can be tested.

Ding said that his interest was piqued because of the history of manufacturing and industry in Columbiana County and the impact of water on humans’ mental development and overall health. “I was interested in understanding whether the two will have an impact on the water we see today,” he says.

Ding will enumerate the data for possible future grant funding to support his study. Awarding to Associate Professor Harman Dhillon, Ph.D., Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State East Liverpool.

Associate Professor Qunxing Ding

Biology Faculty, Kent State East Liverpool
The Power Systems Institute
First Energy and Kent State Trumbull Partnership

The Power Systems Institute developed a strong partnership with Kent State Trumbull to offer an associate degree in electrical utility. Through the program, students learn the necessary skills and abilities to work for a distributor of First Energy. To be accepted into the program, students must first pass an academic and technical evaluation. Once students are accepted, their tuition is paid for by First Energy in exchange for their agreement to work for First Energy for five years post-graduation. The electrical utility industry has a shortage of trained linemen, and the program trains electrical utility degree programs, including nursing, are also prominent programs developed to serve the needs of the Northwest Ohio region. At the university’s northernmost campus, Kent State Ashtabula offers degrees in viticulture (grape growing) and enology (wine making). The program director for this academic year, Edward Poblete, describes an award-winning seminar where a background in chemistry and has worked at Northeast Ohio vineyards and wineries. He explains that the field brings valuable expertise to the classroom and will greatly benefit the education of the next generation of winemakers in Ohio and the United States. Additional prominent programs include Kent State Tuscarawas’ animation and respiratory therapy, and Kent State Stark’s music technology program. Kent State Stark’s most technology program.

A GREAT PLACE FOR STUDENTS
The faculty and staff of the Regional Campuses provide a warm welcome to their students and help make each Region a place for students to learn. In appreciation for all that they do, Regional Campuses have plans to create opportunities for health and wellness to flourish, offer development opportunities that lead to their successes. Kent State Trumbull plans to create a Wellness Center that would offer yoga and meditation. The Western Reserve Greenway bike trail passes through the campus, so Kent State Trumbull plans to promote its use and add bike racks to the campus.

Telling the Kent State Region Story
With over 16,000 students and a diverse faculty and staff, the Regional Campuses have many stories to tell. The highlight stories in this report are just a small sampling of the many stories the Kent State Region is doing and participating in across Northeast Ohio and around the world. Regional Campuses plan to continue their efforts to get their stories out and share their stories on its campus publications, websites, advertising, signage and more. This support has enabled Kent State to promote a more unified brand that builds the national recognition of the university and its campus publications.
Run the World 5K
Kent State Stark is helping awareness and resources through a new fundraising event — Run the World 5K. The goal is to raise funds for education-abroad scholarships for Kent State Stark students. Modeled after the October 2016 Office of Global Education run in Kent, the first 5K took place in April 2017. Over 100 students, staff, faculty and community members walked and ran a double-loop around campus, and the event aided in the financing of these travel scholarships.

INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT
Twenty-one Chinese students mapping in English at their home universities were enrolled at Kent State Stark for the fall 2016 term. American students served as conversation partners and cultural ambassadors, giving the Chinese students a chance to immerse themselves in American culture. Currently, 21 students are enrolled for the fall 2017 semester. Still, international travel is beyond the reach of most students across the globe. A “global campus” approach to online courses is being studied at Kent State Trumbull with the goal of fall 2018 implementation.

The faculty and administrators at Kent State Tuscarawas plan to promote online offerings of their unique programs to international students and to create scholarships and housing opportunities for targeted students who prefer a small-town experience while in the U.S.

INTERNATIONAL REACH
For many students, the first step towards a global perspective is to be aware of existing education-abroad opportunities, which they can participate in while attending a Regional Campus. Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga have set a goal to increase the number of students traveling abroad to study by 1 percent for the 2017–2018 academic year. To reach this goal, the campuses plan to hold education-abroad information tables and have representatives from the Office of Global Education on campus for information sessions.

More than 120 students studied in countries in Asia, Central America and Europe in the past year through Kent State Stark-based projects and through partnerships with faculty and programs on the Kent Campus.

Assistant Professor Eric Kildow has been leading the theatre program at Kent State Trumbull since fall 2015 and is bringing his connection to the Czech Republic theatre community to Kent State students, too. In June 2017, he led the Theatre and Society course in Prague, helping students learn how the performing arts are an important expression of political and social life there. The 12-day study-travel component was designed to expand participants’ frontiers and enrich their understanding of the dynamics of the Chinese cultural landscape through examination of historical relics, exposure to cultural artifacts at heritage sites, and collaboration with local college students.

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Regional Impact

Nowhere in Kent State University’s regional and local impact felt more than on the Regional Campuses. As integral parts of their local communities, Regional Campuses serve as vital engines of innovation through partnerships and programs that contribute to the quality of life for Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Priorities:

PRIORITY 4:
Regional Impact

The Regional Campuses work with local schools to foster partnerships that strengthen and nurture students in their local community. The Rural Scholars Program offered by Kent State Salem and Kent State East Liverpool is an outstanding example. The Rural Scholars Program offers first-generation, college-bound students from Columbiana County and surrounding neighboring areas a college access program designed to give them the knowledge, rigorous academic exposure and social support they will need in order to be successful. The program includes rigorous coursework, career workshops and scholarships. Each Regional Campus will adjust the content to align with its programs and the needs of its community.

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From Prep to Postsecondary:

The Regional Campuses offer wide-ranging programs that strengthen and nurture students in their local community. The Rural Scholars Program offered by Kent State Salem and Kent State East Liverpool is an outstanding example. The Rural Scholars Program offers first-generation, college-bound students from Columbiana County and surrounding neighboring areas a college access program designed to give them the knowledge, rigorous academic exposure and social support they will need in order to be successful. The program includes rigorous coursework, career workshops and scholarships. Each Regional Campus will adjust the content to align with its programs and the needs of its community.

The Rural Scholars Program is also growing "out," with plans in place to expand the program to all Regional Campuses in the near future. The key elements will be kept — mentoring, college/ career workshops and scholarships. Each Regional Campus will adjust the content to align with its programs and the needs of the local community.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

All Regional Campuses increased efforts to recruit more College Credit Plus (CCP) students the academic year, and their efforts have paid off. The campuses are tracking program applicants, the number of students admitted and the number of enrolled CCP students. Last year’s numbers are being used as a benchmark, and this year’s numbers are showing a significant increase. The Regional Campuses have become valuable partners to local schools through CCP, and several high schools have invited their local Regional Campuses to hold classes in a space at the high school. This helps make Kent State a daily visual presence in local high schools, and the benefits of CCP agreements with A-Tech and several new articulation partnerships this year, Kent State will be far reaching. The Regional Campuses are tracking and this year’s numbers are being used as a benchmark, and this year’s numbers are showing a significant increase. The Regional Campuses have become valuable partners to local schools through CCP, and several high schools have invited their local Regional Campuses to hold classes in a space at the high school. This helps make Kent State a daily visual presence in local high schools, and the benefits of CCP agreements with A-Tech and several new articulation partnerships this year, Kent State will be far reaching.

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Rural Scholars:

Kent State East Liverpool and Kent State Salem

The Rural Scholars Program is growing out! These programs started in 2012, and now the first cohort of students are juniors in high school. The program, designed for first-generation, college-bound students, gives students from Columbiana County and neighboring areas a college access program that offers the knowledge, rigorous academic exposure and social support they will need to be successful. Last summer, rural scholars attended a weeklong College Boot Camp on the Kent Campus. Living in residence hall and taking math, writing, biology and First-Year Experience courses. Program Director Wendy Pfrenger continues to be involved in the students’ lives by being available to talk about concerns of any size as they can succeed in school and be prepared for college.

Sometimes “success” is learning how to deal with setbacks. One scholar’s mom says, “My child works so hard on so many things and she fails. I tell her that is okay, they will deal with failure when it happens.” Some scholars are the big-fish-in-a-small-pond kids, and the program staff has helped them take a long view of their academic path and stay on track. The projects and interventions of the program are bearing fruit already. All Rural Scholars students are performing at grade level for math — a key indicator for future success in college.

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From Prep to Postsecondary:

The Regional Campuses offer wide-ranging programs that strengthen and nurture students in their local community. The Rural Scholars Program offered by Kent State Salem and Kent State East Liverpool is an outstanding example. The Rural Scholars Program offers first-generation, college-bound students from Columbiana County and surrounding neighboring areas a college access program designed to give them the knowledge, rigorous academic exposure and social support they will need in order to be successful. The program includes rigorous coursework, career workshops and scholarships. Each Regional Campus will adjust the content to align with its programs and the needs of the local community.

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Viticulture and Enology Degrees

At first glance, enology and viticulture degrees may seem out of place at a university. After all, grape growing and winemaking are complex amalgamations of science and art — plant biology, chemistry, physics, and the science of fermentation intertwined with the art of creating a beverage that literally appeals to current tastes. Edward Trebets has led the program on a full-time basis for one year, bringing his years of experience as both a high school chemistry teacher and award-winning winemaker to Ohio’s college students. Many students currently work at wineries and vineyards in the Great Lakes region, and some are hobby winemakers who want to advance the skills they have acquired through trial-and-error experiments at home. Students complete much of the coursework online, combined with a few weekends spent at Kent State Ashtabula each semester. Taste-testing student wines is a “homework” assignment, followed by a written critique of each bottling. Fieldwork classes give students on-site experience at local vineyards and wineries. Students walk the fields and check fermentation tanks to labeling bottles. Several of the viticulture and enology students have part-time employment in the Ohio wine industry upon completion of the program, and student winemakers are equipped for a lifetime of learning by making wine conversations with their own wines. A current student won Best of Show White Wine at the Ohio Wine Competition in May 2017.

encourages increased faculty and staff participation in the community. Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Stark are committed to meeting the needs of the local community through innovative programs that benefit the local workforce, as well. A unique aspect of this is Kent State Trumbull’s partnership with the Great Lakes Community College Aeronautics Program at the Kent Campus and the Ashtabula Airport. The program includes a student-led critique of each bottling. Fieldwork classes give students on-site experience at local vineyards and wineries. Students walk the fields and check fermentation tanks to labeling bottles. Several of the viticulture and enology students have part-time employment in the Ohio wine industry upon completion of the program, and student winemakers are equipped for a lifetime of learning by making wine conversations with their own wines. A current student won Best of Show White Wine at the Ohio Wine Competition in May 2017.

In being responsive to their communities, Regional Campuses also look to community needs when considering degree programs that can enhance students’ options for their campus. Kent State Stark has been conducting ongoing discussions with community leaders to decide upon degrees that remain vital to the community. At Kent State Ashtabula, a partnership with the Aeronautica Program at the Ashtabula Airport is being considered for the addition of an associate degree in airline maintenance. Because of a shortage of airline maintenance workers, the sector needs well-trained and educated employees. Kent State Ashtabula has also engaged in a partnership with a winery in the county to offer more hands-on learning opportunities for the students in the wine degree programs.
Performing Arts Center, Kent State Tuscarawas

David Mitchell will tell you that he has the perfect job: “I get to sell fun.” Mitchell joined the Tuscarawas Performing Arts Center (PAC) as general manager in December 2015 after spending 15 years at a national theatre company in Louisville, Kentucky. In his first year at Kent State Tuscarawas, he focused on scheduling high-caliber programming that appeals to a wide range of tastes and takes full advantage of the intimate size and exemplary acoustics of the hall.

A native of Coshocton, Mitchell is excited to bring what he has learned about arts management to the New Philadelphia campus. He is impressed with the community of support already in place when he arrived. Mitchell has embraced the unique educational mission of the Performing Arts Center. That includes reaching out to students of all ages — from elementary school through college. This year, area teachers brought students to see Class Acts, a series of professional performances supported by the Ohio Arts Council. Mitchell also brought the a capella group VoicePlay into schools across the county. Kent State Tuscarawas students hold internships in the business office, and Mitchell is exploring ways to add more experiential learning opportunities.

Academic Advisor Melissa Crites is a fan of the Performing Arts Center; her children have performed as part of the Tuscarawas Philharmonic Children’s Chorus. She says, “It was fantastic to hear more than 70 children’s voices singing along with the professional musicians on the stage at the annual Christmas concert. It has been an unforgettable experience for our entire family.”

Those kinds of experiences, Mitchell hopes, will keep bringing people back to the center.
SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPROVEMENT

From improving their campuses to ensuring cost savings, Regional Campuses know the importance of sustainability and improvement in keeping their campus attractive to students while being fiscally sound. Kent State Geauga created efficiencies this year for events such as commencement and the scholarship event. Kent State Stark evaluated current processes to identify areas of increased efficiencies, and the Columbiana campuses have a future goal of increasing awareness and participation in the budgeting process for all their campus constituents.

Kent State Stark is also addressing the area of environmental sustainability. The campus has developed an education program on sustainability and is actively engaging its community in sustainability efforts. The campus also aims to collaborate with industry innovators to bring new energy technologies to the campus.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Regional Campuses continue to update their facilities to provide a comfortable and conducive learning environment for students. Kent State Ashtabula started on the first phase of its Main Hall C-Wing classroom renovations in May 2017, and will continue following the campus master plan to update the auditorium and create a formal entry to Main Hall on the north side of the building. The Columbiana campuses aim to update classroom spaces and evaluate their technological infrastructure. Kent State East Liverpool plans to improve the streets and overall physical environment of its campus, and Kent State Salem plans to add formal gardens to the campus entrance to create a more welcoming, attractive atmosphere. Kent State Tuscarawas and Kent State Trumbull also are pursuing several capital projects.

2016-2017 Scholarship Banquet
Kent State Ashtabula

Every year, exceptional students, such as freshman nursing major Katie Cline, receive the opportunity to thank the donors who made their scholarships possible. Kent State Ashtabula’s annual Scholarship Banquet has become a favorite event of the scholarship donors because they meet and socialize with the students who benefited from their generosity. Each year, three student speakers share the story of their academic journey and relate how scholarships have helped them succeed. The donors join students for dinner at the Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake, the reading of the scholarship awards and for the opportunity to have photos taken with the students whom they have assisted. The event is especially meaningful to donors who have founded a scholarship in memory of a loved one. In turn, the students are interested in learning about the people for whom their scholarship was created and hearing about the life experiences and advice of donors who have walked in their shoes many times.
Kent State University at Ashtabula celebrated 50 years of service in 2016. The campus’s warm and welcoming environment has an average age of 24 and included 127 College Credit Plus students, most of whom were part-time faculty in the wine, health, and business.

The campus’s wine program, which was introduced in 2016, met the 53 standards and received continued accreditation by the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The program was recognized for its mission to prepare students for a career in the wine industry, and its strong partnerships with businesses and the local community.

Ashtabula is home to Cellars in Madison, Ohio, a popular wine and grape growing destination located on the Grand River. The campus’s wine program is part of the Kent State University Regional Campuses, which includes campuses in Ashtabula, Salem, and East Liverpool.

The Kent State Club Managers Association honored 15 students for their work in the wine industry during the annual Conference in St. Louis. The students created a poster showcasing their Club Management in the future. The students created the poster to support the product launch plan for the app, and ways to support the product launch plan.

The Kent State University at Ashtabula Campus program excellence in Radiologic Technology at East Liverpool was recognized for meeting the Tree Campus USA’s five standards. The campus received $50,000 from the Salem Community Foundation to launch a virtual reality teaching center.

The Kent State University at Ashtabula’s Department of Nursing received funding to support the development of the state’s only spin-coupled supramolecular simulation lab. The simulation lab will provide potential for future use in magnetic refrigeration, quantum computing and nanotechnology. Projects such as these require multiple steps, and Tandon is developing novel, highly efficient synthetic methodologies for the synthesis of specific polymers, which will be tested at extreme temperatures for their potential as magnetic materials.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Santosh Singh Tandon, Ph.D., is researching the design, synthesis, structural characterizations, and magnetic properties of spin-coupled supramolecular architectures of paramagnetic transition/metal hybrid materials. The project received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The project is focused on understanding the properties of these materials and their potential applications in medicine and technology.

The Kent State University at Ashtabula’s Department of Biology received funding from the American Chemical Society (ACS) to support the development of a virtual reality teaching center. The new teaching center will be used to teach students about the effects of climate change on local ecosystems. The center will also be used to teach students about the ethical considerations of genetic engineering.

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT Geauga and Regional Academic Center

High School came to campus to engage in experiments with faculty, attend a career fair and meet with Kent State science majors. 

Sergi also includes stories and photos from her family’s life in her core history classes.

The Regional Academic Center’s Gamma Chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu Honor Society inducts its new members during the academic year. Students, who are working towards their Associate Degree in Nursing, have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and have demonstrated conduct on campus and in the clinical areas that reflect integrity and professionalism. Students received an honor society pin and special cords to wear at graduation.

Applying to a new university or college? Check out Kent State's College Fair online at https://www.kent.edu/admissions/collegefair or contact your high school career counselor. 

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT Geauga makes the 2016-2017 Academic Year one to remember. 

The students and faculty, who eventually apply to Kent State East Liverpool, continued their research on the campus and in the community. 

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Kent State Geauga and the Regional Academic Center have expanded its outreach efforts to promote careers in science. Kent State Geauga science faculty met with fifth- and sixth-grade students in the Barberton Local School District to promote careers in science. The campus also hosted Women in STEM Day at the Regional Academic Center, iSTEM Geauga Early College and the Regional Academic Center, iSTEM Geauga Early College. The campus also hosted Women in STEM Day at the Regional Academic Center, iSTEM Geauga Early College.

DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING The Working Group for Diversity inclusion, creative and interactive lunch- and-learn programs throughout the spring semester. The group expanded its outreach efforts by hosting a webinar on how to apply for various careers at each campus location so that students could use their thought and ideas on everything from presentation topics to answering questions about diversity. 

Senior Lecturer in Psychology David Larrin presented two papers at the 2016-2017 annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association in Atlanta titled “Subtractive Leadership” and “Measuring the Impact of Information Consumption on Achievement in Higher Education.”

Professor of English Craig Paulsenich, Ph.D., had his poem, “Two Last Words,” included in Read – Write: 30 Days of Poetry. His latest work is common at the time, too.”

Bringing History to Life

Professor of History Molly Sergi, Ph.D., sees her favorite research topic collaborate a milestone in 2017 — the 15th anniversary of the U.S. National History Day program. “The program is a great way to engage students in understanding of that war, so Sergi includes stories and photos from her numerous talks to committees and events for U.S. soldiers that has visited across Europe into her core history classes. 

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT Stark

Music Technology

Director Pat Grotzmann reported that the Music Technology Program has grown quickly and is beginning to draw students from beyond the immediate area — the dual focus on music composition and audio engineering is attracting students from disciplines and backgrounds other than music.

The program’s location within the Department of Music is key to its success. The program’s advisors, professors, and students are all from Kent State’s College of Arts and Sciences, which offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in music, media arts, and technology.

Student growth

In addition to student growth, the program experienced significant growth in faculty. The addition of new faculty members and the expansion of existing academic programs has helped to meet the growing demand for music technology education.

Music technology is a rapidly growing field, and the program is responding by increasing the number of courses offered in music composition, audio engineering, and related areas.

Faculty development

The program has also focused on faculty development, providing opportunities for professional growth and collaboration. This has helped to attract new faculty members and retain existing ones.

Technology integration

The program has also emphasized the integration of technology into the classroom and beyond. This includes the use of digital tools for compositional and performance activities, as well as the development of new courses and programs that focus on the integration of technology in music education.

Outreach and engagement

The program has also made efforts to engage with the local community, hosting numerous events and collaborations with local organizations. This has helped to increase the program’s visibility and impact within the region.

Future directions

As the program continues to grow and evolve, it will continue to focus on student success, faculty development, and technology integration. The goal is to continue to provide a high-quality education and training in music technology that prepares students for success in a rapidly changing industry.
Kent State University at Tuscarawas was fully engaged in the 2016–17 Academic Year. Students were successful in so many of their endeavors. Many participated in and were recognized for their accomplishments in undergraduate research, for formulating an active Student Government Association and participating in Service Learning throughout our community. Students also competed for the first time in USCAA athletics, traveling from South Carolina to New York. The campus also enjoyed the first concerts of the newly formed band and choir. Students also competed for the first time in USCAA athletics, traveling from South Carolina to New York. The campus also enjoyed the first concerts of the newly formed band and choir.

Faculty were recognized at the highest level of the university. The Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Donald Getsler, Ph.D., for his exemplary work teaching across the Kent State system. Paul Dykshoorn began last year as the director of the program at Kent State Tuscarawas, and he is looking forward to expanding to new areas at Kent State in the fall of 2017. The expansion includes the newly created Bachelor of Arts, as well as a Virtual Reality Room. The Virtual Reality (VR) Room is a key feature. It includes both motion-capture and traditional VR systems used for animation and VR experiences. “This is an emerging technology,” says Dykshoorn. “It has applications in industry, entertainment, fashion and art. Our faculty, Lorraine Barnes and Turan Kupurt, are working on ways to collaborate using animation and VR with other departments and programs.”

Regional Campus Goals for 2017-2018

STUDENTS FIRST
- Begin REACH initiative.
- Implement enrollment and retention strategies across all Regional Campuses.
- Retain Next Experience at Kent State Salem and Kent State East Liverpool.
- Continue library innovation with a focus on student success.
- Pair faculty, staff and administrators with students to establish strong relationships and help them access student support services — Kent Chances Mentoring Program.

A DISTINGUISHED KENT STATE
- Pursue the Great Places Initiative action items generated from the university-wide Campus Climate survey conducted in 2016.

GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS
- Create local community partnerships to send students to study abroad from Kent State Tuscarawas, Kent State Salem and Kent State East Liverpool.
- Establish partnerships with Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers Academy.
- Complete Global Campus goals and action points for fall 2018 implementation at Kent State Trumbull.
- Create Sister City partnership with Kent State Trumbull, the city of Warren and the Rotary Foundation to create and host international exchange students.
- Increase the number of students traveling abroad to study by 1 percent at Kent State Ashtabula and Kent State Geauga.
- Expand and refine the Kent State Stark program for Chinese students.
- Sign Stark campus partnerships with the American University in Dubai and Sharjah.
- Expand the Cultural Cafe event to a third campus.

REGIONAL IMPACT
- Continue the Rural Scholars Program.
- Expand the Rising Scholars Program.
- Complete the Fine and Performing Arts renovation at Kent State Stark.
- Welcome Tori Pagan to the regional system student services staff to coordinate projects and program reviews.
- Develop campus safety strategy.
- Complete the Fine and Performing Arts renovation at Kent State Stark.
- Complete Kent State East Liverpool Student Success Center construction.
- Begin construction on a new Kent State Tuscarawas gateway.
- Implement new technology for synchronous online teaching.

Computer Design, Animation and Gaming

Originated at Kent State Tuscarawas, the computer design, animation, and gaming degree is offered at Tuscarawas, Stark, and Kent State. Paul Dykshoorn began last year as the director of the program at Kent State Tuscarawas, and he is looking forward to expanding to new areas at Kent State in the fall of 2017. The expansion includes the newly created Bachelor of Arts, as well as a Virtual Reality Room. The Virtual Reality (VR) Room is a key feature. It includes both motion-capture and traditional VR systems used for animation and VR experiences. “This is an emerging technology,” says Dykshoorn. “It has applications in industry, entertainment, fashion and art. Our faculty, Lorraine Barnes and Turan Kupurt, are working on ways to collaborate using animation and VR with other departments and programs.”

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