Takeaway: “Colleges cannot control demographics but can improve retention and graduation rates.”

This takeaway was one of six in “A Turbulent Future for Enrollment” by Eric Kelderman in The Chronicle of Higher Education’s *The Looming Enrollment Crisis* (2019).

The enrollment equation is basic arithmetic. You sum the students who persist and new students who enroll and you subtract students who graduate and students who do not persist. In the current environment, colleges and universities may have less control over new students enrolling given the declining trends in high school graduates and more control over students who persist.

In this issue of *Connecting the Dots*, we will begin to focus on retention at Kent State University at Stark. We will look at the trends in retention for full-time and part-time students and subsets of these two groups of students and discuss how our retention contributes to our overall enrollment.
Stark Campus Retention Rates for Full-Time Students

Retention rates measure the percent of first-time undergraduate students who return to the same college the following fall. Figure 1 displays retention rates for full-time, first-time students at the Stark Campus for Fall 2010 through Fall 2018. The blue line indicates all full-time students, the orange line is Pell-eligible students, the black line represents first generation students, and the gold line is under-represented students.

In the last decade, our overall retention rates have ranged from 59% in 2011 to 66% in 2017. Retention rates have declined the last two years. The retention rate from fall 2018 to fall 2019 was 60.7%, which means we retained 3 out of every 5 students after their first year. The 25 first years in your fall 2018 course is now a 15-person sophomore course in fall 2019.

The Stark Campus had an incoming class of 501 full-time, first-time students, which declined to 304 students by Fall 2019. A 1% increase in retention equates to 5 students.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports that the average retention rate of first-time, full-time students (for 2016 to 2017, its most recent year of data available) for all open admissions public institutions is 62%. At 66.1% from 2016 to 2017, Kent State Stark was above average. However, since then, we have dropped more than 5 percentage points.

At Kent State Stark, under-represented students (African American, Hispanic, Native American or a combination) have the lowest and most unstable retention rates with the widest range over the last decade from as low as 43% in 2013 to as high as 62.5% in 2010. Stark Campus retention rates for Pell-eligible students have ranged from 56% to 62% and for first generation students have ranged from 58% to 62% over the last decade. First generation students actually had a higher retention rate in 2018 at 62% than the campus average of 60.7%.

Retention for Part-Time Students

Less than half of part-time students return the following year to the Stark Campus. In 2018, the retention rate for all part-time, first-time students was 47.4%, for Pell-eligible students was 38.1%, for first generation students was 55%, and for under-represented students was 33.3%. We are not retaining every two of three under-represented part-time students.

Nationally, there is generally about a 22-percentage point spread in retention rates between full-time and part-time students (National Student Clearinghouse).
GRANT ACTIVITY

Table 1: In the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2020, Kent State Stark faculty and staff submitted 10 grant proposals, valued at $1.6 million, and have received 9 awards, valued at $1.25 million, with 1 pending, valued at $100,000. The value of FY 2020 Q1 grant awards is greater than the total dollar value combined of FY 2018 and FY 2019 awards, and is greater than any single year dollar value of grant awards since 2013, when Stark Campus began collecting grant metrics. In FY2020 Q2, which began October 1, Kent State Stark faculty and staff members have submitted 10 proposals, valued at $148,587, of which 5 have been awarded valued at $20,662 and 5 are pending valued at $127,921.

The number of grant submissions in the first half of FY 2020 is down significantly from the same period last year, with 20 grants submissions in FY 2020 and 31 submissions in FY 2019. With 6 grants pending, the award rate for notified grants is 100%. The dollar value of awards at $1.3 million in the first half of FY 2020 with nearly $0.23 million pending is far greater than the dollar value of awards for FY 2018 and FY 2019 combined.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kent State University at Stark</th>
<th>Grant Metrics by Quarter by Submission Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Submissions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Quarter 1 *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter 2 *</td>
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<td>Quarter 3 *</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter 4 *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2020 Total *</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* incomplete data

Grant Submissions

The following Kent State Stark faculty member recently submitted this external grant proposal:

- P. Dillon, Ph.D., Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), FY 2020 Grants Benefiting Homeless Individuals (GBHI), “Expanding Integrated housing, substance abuse/co-occurring treatment, and support services for homeless women in Tennessee by Mending Hearts,” with University of Memphis ($30,892).

Grant Awards

The following grants were recently awarded to faculty members of Kent State Stark:

- R. Hamilton IV, Ph.D., Arts in Stark, Special Project – Regular Grant, “Celebrating Black History with the Arts,” ($1,657).
- J. Khan, Ph.D. and P. Thomas, Ph.D., Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), Choose Ohio First Scholarships for Computer Science and Related Fields, “Choose Ohio First CS Scholarships: Building High Demand 21st-Century Workforce Development in Big-Data, Cyber Security & Privacy, AI, Smart Systems and Devices, and other cutting edge Computer Science,” ($2,064,530) with Y. Chae, Ph.D., A. Guercio, Ph.D., and A.B. Kasturiarachi, Ph.D., as Key Persons for the Regional Campus portion of the grant ($189,750).
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following is a list of grants, awards, and competitions listed by educational area with upcoming deadlines. Please contact Theresa Ford (tford15@kent.edu or x 53580) if you have any questions regarding an opportunity on this list or wish to apply to one.

Arts and Humanities

- American Music Abroad, International Exchange Program, (lodging, per diem, and stipend), for ensembles to conduct regional cultural exchange tours, approximately 3 weeks, in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and the Middle East, deadline January 19, 2020 (application and supplementary materials) and March 23-28, 2020 (live auditions in NY and San Francisco).
- College Art Association, Art History Fund for Travel to Special Exhibitions, to award qualifying undergraduate and graduate art history classes funds to cover students’ and instructors’ costs (travel, accommodations, and admission fees) associated with attending museum special exhibitions throughout the US and worldwide; the purpose of the grant is to enhance students’ first-hand knowledge of original works of art, deadline January 15, 2020 (requires institutional/instructor membership in CAA).
- Kresge Foundation, #1 Increase Creative Capacity to Shape Healthier Neighborhoods, #2 Strengthen the Equitable Creative Placemaking Field, deadline January 31, 2019 (LOI – Letter of Intent).
- National Endowment for the Arts (LIMITED SUBMISSION-contact Theresa at 5-3580 or tford15@kent.edu), Grants for Arts Projects ($10,000-$100,000), grants in the following disciplines: Artist Communities, Arts education, Dance, Design, Folk & traditional Arts, Literary Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Media Arts, Museums, Music, Musical Theatre, Opera, Presenting & Multidisciplinary Works, Theater, Visual Arts, internal deadline January 8, 2019 (letter of interest) and external deadlines February 13, 2020 (or July 9, 2020).
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Humanities Projects, ($40,000 to $75,000), supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences; projects must engage humanities scholarship to illuminate significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art, or to address challenging issues in contemporary life, deadlines November 24, 2019 (optional draft) and January 15, 2019 (full application).
- Ohio Humanities Council, Monthly Grants ($2,000), deadline 1st business day of month; Media Planning Grants, ($2,000), deadline 1st business day of month; Cultural Heritage Tourism Planning Grant, ($2,000) deadline 1st business day of month; General Grants Program: Quarterly Grants ($5,000); and Major Grants (up to $20,000).
- Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Grants for Artists in Need, (size of award varies), dual criteria for grants are recognizable artistic merit and financial need, whether professional, personal, or both to individuals who have worked as artists over a significant period of time, deadline open.
- University of Michigan, Stamps School of Art and Design, Roman J. Witt Residency Program, ($20,000 honorarium, housing, studio space, up to $4,000 for project materials) supports the production of a new artistic work by a visiting artist/designer through a one-year residency that allows the artist to work at the school and collaborate with students and faculty, estimated (check the website) deadline January 31, 2020.

Community Impact

- Clif Bar Family Foundation, Small Grants, (up to $7,000) funding priorities: protect earth’s beauty and bounty; create a robust, healthy food system; increase opportunities for outdoor activity; reduce environmental health hazards; and build stronger communities; deadlines February 1, 2019, June 1, 2019, and October 1, 2019.

Global Education

- 100,000 Strong in the Americas, Innovation Fund, 2019 U.S.-Mexico Innovation Fund Competition for Economic and Financial Inclusion and Agricultural Sustainability for Inequality Reduction ($25,000) to promote academic exchange and training opportunities, deadline March 2, 2020.

Internal – KSU Grants

- Kent State University Foundation, Farris Family Innovation Fellowship, ($8,000/year for up to 3 years) supports nontenured, tenure-track faculty for up to three years or until tenured (whichever occurs first) for research including travel, equipment, materials, and other costs associated with research, deadline January 31, 2019. (Please contact Theresa at 5-3580 or tford15@kent.edu for more information.)
- Kent State of Wellness, Seeds of Wellness mini-grants, (up to $1,000), supports initiatives related to alcohol and drug use, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, preventive care, safety, sexual health, and smoking and tobacco use, deadline rolling until funds are exhausted.
Multiple Disciplines and Themes

- US Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad—Bilateral Projects, Summer 2020 Programs, for postsecondary educators – Global Issues Animating Taiwan, supports short-term study and travel seminars abroad for U.S. educators in the social sciences and humanities for the purpose of improving their understanding and knowledge of the peoples and cultures of other countries, deadline January 14, 2020.

Nursing / Health Care

- Aultman Foundation, Grants, (~ $5,000), focus on wellness, health education or human services; special consideration to projects that provide services to the underserved, especially the elderly and children, and/or helps to solve a community health need related to mental illness, obesity, infant mortality, opioid and drug abuse, and access to care, deadlines: February 14, 2020 (LOI) and February 28, 2020 (application by invitation only).
- National League of Nursing, NLN Nursing Education Research Grants, ($30,000), to support high-quality studies that contribute to the development of the science of nursing education, promote the diversity of research topics, and encourage investigators who demonstrate rigor and innovative approaches to advance the field of nursing education research, deadline February 6, 2020.
- PhRMA Foundation, Health Outcomes Program, (up to $100,000), to assist individuals in schools of medicine, pharmacy, public health, nursing, and dentistry beginning an independent research career in health outcomes at the faculty level, deadline February 1, 2020.

Poverty

- Lever for Change, Economic Opportunity Challenge, ($10 million), to the most scalable, transformative, and proven solution that meaningfully expands economic opportunity for low-income individuals in the US; proven, data-driven solutions that are ready to serve as a model for and be replicated in communities across the US, deadlines January 28, 2020 (registration) and February 18, 2020 (application).

Retirement

- Center for Retirement Research, Steven H. Sandell Grant Program, ($45,000), for junior or nontenured scholars within 7 years of receiving their PhD from any academic discipline to pursue cutting-edge projects on retirement or disability issues; research focus areas include trends in disability and survey issues, informing long-term projections and models, state and local pensions for non-covered workers, actuarial adjustment of benefits, economic effects of totalization agreements, measuring sources of income, risks and resources in older age, induced entry, opioids, and claimant representatives, deadline January 31, 2020.

Social Justice

- Nathan Cummings Foundation, Fellowship program, (up to $150,000 over 18 months), to pursue a visionary social justice, economic justice, and /or climate change objective; interested in projects that demonstrate exceptional vision and a willingness to disrupt entrenched systems and take risks; all projects must relate to either inequality or climate change, deadline letter of inquiry accepted year-round.
- Public Welfare Foundation, Criminal and Social Justice Programs, supports groups working on sentencing reform at the state level and working on ending the criminalization and over-incarceration of youth in the US and policy and system reforms to improve the lives of low-wage working people in the US, deadline rolling (Letters of Intent).

Social Sciences

- Russell Sage Foundation, Small Grants in Behavioral Economics, to support high quality research in behavioral economics and to encourage young investigators to enter this developing field, deadline rolling.
- Smith Richardson Foundation, Domestic Public Policy Program, ($25,000 - $104,000), supports projects that help the public and policy makers understand and address critical challenges facing the United States, deadline open (Concept Paper).
**Special Collections/Research Libraries – Travel & Research Grants**

Please note that many of these grants encourage scholars to call the library before applying, and many have specific time periods covered by the fellowship for library/collections use. Listed in order of upcoming deadlines; those with no deadlines are listed first.

**No deadlines:**

- Langum Charitable Trust, [Langum Travel to Collections Initiative](#), (up to $1,500), supports travel and living expenses of scholars who wish to use the Langum Family Papers or the de Mattos family Papers, both of which are located at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, deadline continuous.
- Smith College Libraries, [Grants for Researchers](#), ($1,000 - $2,500)
  - Margaret Storrs Grierson Fellowship, Friends of the Smith College Libraries Fellowship, and German Fellowship, for research in the Sophia Smith Collection and College Archives, to support 4-6 week visits, ($2,500).
  - Mortimer Fellowship, for research in the Mortimer Rare Book Collection, ($1,000).
  - Travel-to-Collections Awards, ($1,000) to offset travel expenses for researchers in Special Collections at Smith College and to support researchers at the pre-proposal stage who would like to survey holdings.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Amy Hague, Research Services Archivist, ([ahague@smith.edu](mailto:ahague@smith.edu)) before applying, no application deadline.

- University of Southern California Libraries, Grants,
  - [Research Grants for German Exile Studies](#), for scholars whose work would benefit from access to German exile study materials, no deadline.

**Upcoming January and February deadlines:**

- Duke University, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History and Culture, [Mary Lily Research Grants](#), (up to $1,000), support projects that present creative approaches, including historical research and documentation projects resulting in dissertations, publications, exhibitions, educational initiatives, documentary films, or other multimedia products and artistic works that would benefit from access to the women’s history collections at the Library, deadline January 1, 2020.
- Yale University Lewis Walpole Library, [Fellowship Program](#), Visiting Fellowships and Travel Grants, supports research in the Library’s rich collections of the 18th century materials (mainly British), deadline January 8, 2020.
- Oberlin College, [Frederick B. Artz Summer Research Grants Program](#), ($1,000), deadline January 15, 2020.
- Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian Libraries, [Dibner Library Resident Scholar](#), (up to $21,000 - $3,500/month for up to 6 months), research related to the history of science and technology, deadline January 15, 2020; [Baird Society Resident Scholar](#), (up to $21,000), rare books and special collections located in Washington, DC and New York City, deadline January 15, 2020; and [Margaret Henry Dabney Penick Resident Scholar Program](#), (up to $21,000), for research into the legacy of Patrick Henry and his political circle; early political history of VA; the history of the American Revolution; founding era ideas and policy making; science, technology, and culture in colonial America and Early National Period, deadline Jan 15, 2020.
- Wayne State University, [Sam Fishman Travel Grant Program](#), (up to $1,000), supports travel to the Reuther Library to access archival records related to the American labor movement, deadline January 16, 2020.
- American Philosophical Society, [APS Short Term Resident Research Fellowships](#), ($3,000-$9,000), for 1- to 3-month residency to conduct research in the APS Library collections, deadline February 2, 2020.
- Emory University, [Emory University Short Term Fellowships](#), ($500-$1,000), supports scholarly use of the Library’s research collections in 5 areas: English-language literature, The Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, African American history and culture, Southern history and culture, and Modern politics, deadline February 15, 2020.
- New York Public Library, [Short-Term Research Fellowships](#), ($2,000-$4,000 for 2-4 weeks), deadline February 15, 2020.
- Emory University, Subject-Specific Fellowships:
  - [Nancy and Randall Burkett Award](#) for Research in Black Print Culture, ($1,000), supports researchers exploring the Rose Library’s holdings of rare manuscript, ephemeral, photographic, and print materials produced by and for African Americans, deadline February.
  - [Billops-Hatch Fellowship](#), ($1,000) supports researchers working in the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives, deadline February.
  - [LGBT Collections Fellowship](#), ($1,000), supports research in Rose Library’s LGBT-related papers and archives that document the history, culture, politics, and public health initiatives, deadline February.
  - [J. Herman Black and Emily L. Moore Award](#), ($500), for research in the Black Panther Party, deadline February.
  - [Leonard and Louis Riggi Fellowship](#), ($1,000-$2,500), supports 2- to 4-week residencies to undertake research in the Alice Walker papers and related archives, deadline February 15, 2020.
STEM, Environment

- American Mathematical Society, China Exchange Program, supports travel of mathematical scientists at institutions in the U.S. or Canada on visits to research colleagues in China and to support travel of less senior mathematical scientists from China to the U.S. or Canada, application open period (December 1, 2019 to March 15, 2020).
- Clif Bar Family Foundation, Small Grants, (up to $7,000) funding priorities: protect earth’s beauty and bounty; create a robust, healthy food system; increase opportunities for outdoor activity; reduce environmental health hazards; and build stronger communities; deadlines February 1, 2019, June 1, 2019, and October 1, 2019.
- Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation, Grant Program, supports programs and projects that promote and support conservation, outdoor recreation, and other issues that relate to the MWCD’s mission, deadlines December 31, March 31, June 30, and September 30.
- National Science Foundation, Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program, (Track 1: $100,000 - $1,000,000 and Track 2: $1-$4,000,000), serves to increase access to multi-user scientific and engineering instrumentation for research and research training in our Nation’s institutions of higher education and not-for-profit scientific/engineering research organizations; supports the acquisition or development of a multi-user research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs, deadline January 21, 2020.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) 2020 General Grant, ($5,000 - $50,000), for the implementation of projects that raise awareness and educate the public about important environmental issues that impact the state with 5 priority areas (see Guidelines), deadlines @ January 8, 2020 (letter of intent) and @ January 15, 2020 (application).
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) 2020 Mini Grant, (up to $5,000), for the implementation of projects that raise awareness and educate the public about important environmental issues that impact the state with 5 priority areas (see Guidelines), deadlines @ January 8, 2020 (letter of intent) and @ January 15, 2020 (application).
- Ohio Space Grant Consortium, Student-Innovative-Creative-Hands-On Project (SICHOP), ($5,000 with 1:1 match where unrecovered or waived indirect costs can count as match), for undergraduate student hands-on projects with a faculty mentor, deadline: proposals accepted at any time.
- PADI Foundation, Research/Education Grants Related to Aquatic Environments, (up to $12,000), supports projects that enrich our understanding of aquatic environments and encourage sensitivity to and protection of ecosystems, increase understanding of sport diving physics and physiology, or improve understanding of, and response to, hazards to humans and ecosystems related to climate change in coastal and ocean environments, deadline January 10, 2020.
- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2020 Environmental Education (EE) Local Grant Program, ($50,000-$100,000), to support locally-focused environmental education projects that increase public awareness and knowledge about environmental and conservation issues and provide the skills that participants in its funded projects need to make informed decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment, deadline January 6, 2020.
- Waste Management, Charitable Giving, programs that WM is most motivated to support: environment (renewable resources, conservation, preservation-enhancement of natural resources), environmental education targeted at middle and high school students, including Earth Day projects, and causes important to the areas where WM operates, deadline rolling.

Students

- Point Foundation, LGBTQ Scholarships, supports LGBTQ students enrolled in undergraduate/graduate programs for the 2019-20 academic year, deadline January 27, 2020.

Well-Being

- American College Health Foundation, College Well-Being Programs, ($3,500), to create or improve underlying campus infrastructure (e.g. networks, resources, tools, structures, coalition-building) in a manner that raises the well-being of students as evidenced through creative programming and outcomes research initiatives. (Eligibility: applicant must be a campus health professional who is an American College Health Association individual member or employed by an ACHA member institution), deadline February 1, 2020.