



MAKING



the **35 DAYS**



COUNT



2016 Academic Report

Governor's Scholars Program

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from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear supporters and friends of the Governor's Scholars Program,



Above, Aris Cedeño (far right) in 1992 with his Spanish Language & Culture Focus Area scholars on the GSP-Murray campus; below, Cedeño in 2016 speaking at the Opening Ceremony of the GSP-NKU campus.

Five weeks may sound like a long time to be away from home—but from our scholars approaching their final days at the Governor's Scholars Program each summer, the wish we hear most often is for another five weeks of intellectual enrichment. On our three campuses, we strive to make each of the 35 days of the GSP count for our scholars. With classes, guest speakers, extracurricular activities, scholar-led events, and more, no day is ever empty of opportunities for growth.

Of course, the GSP experience does not end after 35 days. I have lately been reflecting on my own involvement with the Governor's Scholars Program, which now stretches over 25 years. In that time I have served as a faculty member, a campus director, an academic dean, and now the executive director. I have seen the Program grow from around 700 scholars per summer to over 1,000, and from two campuses to three. The alumni base, which included about 5,000 former scholars in 1992 when I began, now includes over 28,000 alumni. Soon, the Program will have graduated 30,000 alumni.

Another important milestone is just around the corner: next summer will mark the 35th year of the Governor's Scholars Program. As moments like these near, we can more clearly see how our support of scholars and alumni has evolved over the years—and just as importantly, how we can ensure that our support continues to develop young Kentuckians into strong leaders within their home communities.

Yes, we can make the five weeks of the GSP count each summer, but we can also make every day afterwards count, too. Together, let us continue to transform our scholars' lives during and beyond the 35 days of the Program. On behalf of the GSP, thank you for your help in ensuring the future success of our Commonwealth.

Aris Cedeño
Executive Director &
Academic Dean

2016 SCHOLARS BY COUNTY

Counties with up to 3 Governor's Scholars in 2016

Adair	Butler	Cumberland	Gallatin	Lawrence	Lyon	Menifee	Robertson*	Union
Allen	Carroll	Edmonson	Garrard	Lee	Magoffin	Metcalfe	Russell	Webster
Ballard	Carter	Elliott	Green	Leslie	Marion	Morgan	Simpson	Wolfe
Bath	Casey	Estill	Hart	Letcher	Martin	Owen	Todd	
Bracken	Clinton	Fleming	Hickman	Lewis	McCreary	Owsley	Trigg	
Breckenridge	Crittenden	Fulton	Jackson	Livingston	McLean	Powell*	Trimble	

Counties with 4–6 Governor's Scholars

Anderson	Clay	Harrison	Lincoln	Pendleton	Woodford
Bell	Floyd	Henderson	Logan	Perry	
Breathitt	Grant	Henry	Mason	Rockcastle	
Caldwell	Grayson	Jessamine	Monroe	Spencer	
Carlisle	Hancock	Knott	Nicholas	Wayne	
Clark	Harlan	Knox	Ohio	Washington	

7–9 Scholars

Bourbon	Laurel
Calloway	Mercer
Greenup	Montgomery
Johnson	Shelby
LaRue	

10–14 Scholars

Barren	Marshall
Boyd	Meade
Boyle	Muhlenberg
Christian	Rowan
Franklin	Taylor
Graves	Whitley

15–25

Bullitt
Daviess
Hardin
Hopkins
Madison
McCracken
Nelson
Pike
Pulaski
Scott
Warren

26–50

Boone
Campbell
Kenton
Oldham

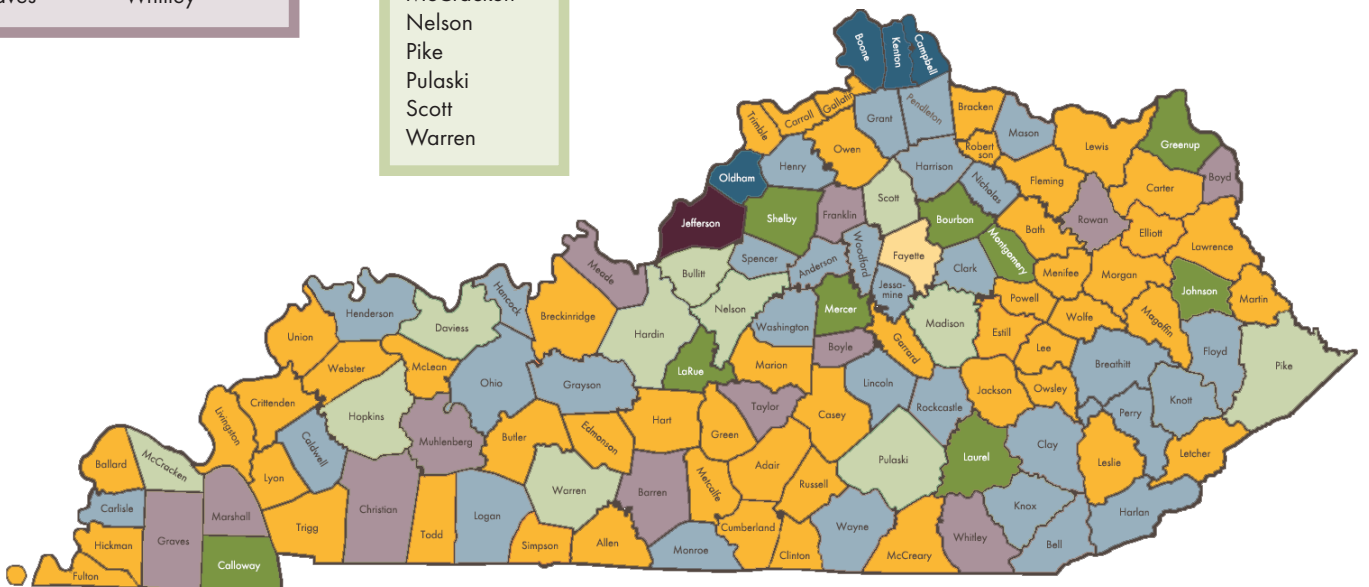
51–100

Fayette

175+

Jefferson

* Denotes county not represented



FOCUS AREAS

AGRIBUSINESS & BIOTECHNOLOGY

Murray State University

Faculty member **Iin Handayani's** scholars explored a wide variety of agribusiness and biotechnology issues. The class visited several agribusinesses in the Western Kentucky area including the Freight House Restaurant, Montgomery Gardens, Hutson Inc., and Furches Farms. Each visit challenged scholars' preconceived notions about agricultural equipment, crop management solutions, and a variety of agricultural products such as food, biofuels, flowers, plants, grains, and tobacco. For a hands-on agricultural education, scholars visited the Soil Science Lab at Murray State University to learn about soil compaction, pH, and color.

To better understand the relationship among sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, global climate change, and agribusiness, scholars discussed two books: Al Gore's *The Future* and David A. Cleveland's *Balancing on a Planet*. They also watched a video about GMOs, which showed scholars the results of agricultural technology development.

Scholars also visited Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville to learn about virology, bacteriology, clinical pathology, toxicology, and molecular diagnostics. To complement their visit, the class conducted an experiment related to antibiotics in milk.



Above, GSP-Murray scholars visit a horse farm; below, scholars look at algae from samples collected at a nearby water source.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Murray State University

Bill Randall asked his scholars to use architectural styles as a way of understanding taste. Beginning with a survey of the major architectural styles, from Classical to Gothic to Modernism, they arrived at an understanding of what now counts as High Design and why contemporary designs elicit such strong reactions from the untrained viewer. Then, equipped with an “architect’s toolkit” from critic Witold Rybczynski, they began their own designs.

Scholars learned a design process that creates ideas through rapid drawing, changing each new drawing through repetitive steps. Then, forming groups based

on similarities in their work, they fleshed out these drawings into full-fledged building designs.

Ultimately, they stepped back from design work to look at the city. In an era of income inequality and civic unrest, scholars investigated how cities form historically to understand these social issues. They used Global Information Systems data to investigate the demographic distribution of city residents, then compared what they found to the illegal practice of redlining. Scholars then asked themselves what roles they will take as active participants in affecting their communities, whether they are architects or not.

“We learned about architecture in this class, but, more importantly, we learned new ways of thinking.”

— **Annie Griffith**, *Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School*



GSP-Murray scholars test their architecture installation made out of PVC pipe and other simple materials.

Northern Kentucky University

In response to a request from a real client, faculty member **Bryan Orthel** and his scholars worked in teams to design a rehearsal building for a professional theater company in a small community. They spent five weeks developing proposals and expanding their understanding about how buildings are made. Class activities introduced scholars to basic structural systems, the development of urban form, and modes of design communication. The scholars met with actors, directors, and the client to understand how the spaces would be used. An in-depth tour of the Northern Kentucky University theater spaces showed the range of systems (e.g. lighting, staging, and HVAC) and the available types of theaters.

At the end of the summer, scholars presented their design proposals to the client for feedback. The class ended with a consideration of how the process used to solve this problem could be applied to issues in the scholars’ home communities and the broader world.

ASTRONOMY

Morehead State University

Michael Feedback's scholars looked to the skies for answers, pondering the likelihood of extraterrestrial life elsewhere in the galaxy and universe. Scholars explored statistical analyses of extraterrestrial life and then contemplated the possibilities of any of that life being intelligent. Scholars brainstormed what they would say to extraterrestrial intelligent life if they had the opportunity.

Scholars in **Daniel King's** class also attempted to learn more about their universe through an observation of the skies. Students were first challenged to defend what they knew about their universe when they were asked to prove that the world was actually a sphere and not a cube. The class then began the construction of their handmade refractor telescopes, which they used to observe planetary bodies including Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

Both GSP-Morehead Astronomy classes learned about careers in the astronomy field and some of the unique opportunities found at Morehead State University. Scholars were able to see the campus's 31-meter radio telescope in action and learn about some of the radio work that Morehead State University students are completing to find pulsars.

Finally, both classes led the entire GSP-Morehead community in a "star party," where the scholars shared their knowledge from the summer with fellow scholars in other Focus Areas.



Above, a GSP-Morehead scholar poses in a replica of a Gemini space capsule; below, GSP-NKU scholars test their handmade telescopes.

Northern Kentucky University

Rico Tyler's scholars sought to understand how astronomers ask questions and find answers. Scholars built their own telescopes and learned to take and analyze lunar and planetary astrophotos. Each week, NKU's Haile Digital Planetarium presented special immersive shows on the background of different astronomical discoveries. Next, scholars learned about the sky and how it moves and changes over time. Evening observation sessions were scheduled weekly to put the scholars' newfound knowledge into practice.

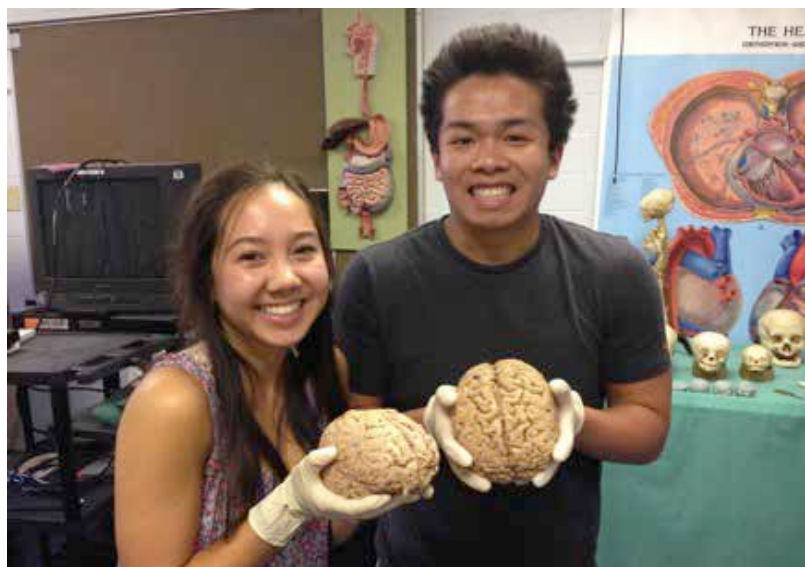


BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Morehead State University

Jamie Hester's Focus Area centered on the book *Anatomies: A Cultural History of the Human Body*. The author, Hugh Aldersey-Williams, reminded scholars that, "You are, probably not, after all, going to be the first person to live forever."

From Shakespeare and Rembrandt to Frankenstein's monster and Einstein's brain, scholars delved into their shared cultural heritage to reveal how attitudes toward the human body are as varied as human history. Traveling to a Buddhist temple for meditation; camping; holding a human brain; and exploring the origins and legacy of tattoos, X-rays, shrunken heads, and plastic surgery: all of these activities help scholars understand Aristotle's statement that "the human body is more than the sum of its parts."



GSP-Morehead scholars examine brains while visiting the University of Kentucky's Science Outreach Center.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Josh Woodward's** class compared the formation of identity in humans to that in biological and environmental systems. A visit to Hancock Biological Station to examine landscape influences on biodiversity was contrasted with an exploration of how geography, environment, and history define river towns in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase region.

Genetic identity was also examined with a breeding experiment on a parasitic wasp species. Through readings and discussions, scholars considered

the complementary natures of the human genome and the many environmental factors that control our epigenome, the series of switches and triggers that control how our genes are used. These exercises helped scholars investigate the many levels of interaction that play a role in biological systems.

Ultimately, the class was challenged to contrast the way science is viewed by society with the way it should be viewed, as understood by the scholars.

Northern Kentucky University

Faculty member **Greg Smith** asked his scholars: What exactly is "the good life"?

The class explored life from our most basic needs to the elements that allow us to excel in society. Scholars went on a primitive campout and learned how difficult it can be to fulfill basic food, water, and shelter needs without the support of society. They also discovered that the ability to obtain relatively cheap energy was

the lifeblood of society. To see energy production in action, scholars visited Duke Energy's Envision Center, where they learned about the advantages and challenges of alternative energy sources and how "smart" technology can save energy.

Lastly, scholars were asked to identify a societal problem, work in teams to investigate it, and then report back to the class with possible solutions.

BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Morehead State University

The **R. J. Corman Business, Accounting, & Entrepreneurship program**, led by **Charlie Myers**, had the opportunity to meet and interact with business professionals engaged in a variety of local, national, and international business concerns. Visiting R. J. Corman, Big Ass Solutions, and Paper Products Company allowed scholars to see manufacturing and large-scale industries; they also heard the stories of how these businesses were created and the current economic environment in which they operate.

An engaging group of executives from US Bank, UBS Financial Services, Fuzzy Duck Coffee Shop and CoffeeTree Books, the Morehead State University Innovation Launchpad, and Hinton Mills Farms also shared their personal experiences and their thoughts on the skills needed by individuals wishing to prepare for a career in business.

Back in the classroom, scholars were challenged to recognize the threads that were common to all the businesses' experiences and are critical for success in any chosen field of work. Scholars also considered how they might use this information as they progress along their own paths in life.

"In a world driven by perfection, this class has taught me the importance of not being afraid to make mistakes—because that is how we learn and grow."

— **Quinn Thompson**,
Boyd County High School

GSP-Morehead Business, Accounting, & Entrepreneurship scholars join the Communication & Social Theory Focus Area on a visit to R. J. Corman.



Northern Kentucky University

With the generous support of the **Kentucky Society of CPAs**, **Scott Takacs's** class leveraged their location in Northern Kentucky to tour area businesses, including the candy and gift company Galerie, North American Stainless Steel, and

Toyota Boshoku America. They also traveled to Louisville to visit the design and architecture firm Hubbuch & Co. and premium beverage business Brown-Forman. Scholars learned the impact of customer satisfaction on stock price, heard from a group of guest speakers across the accounting profession, and discussed tools for finding a market and starting a small business.

COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL THEORY

Morehead State University

Why do so many people struggle with getting important messages across effectively, and what steps can be taken to improve interactions? Faculty member **Cher Reynolds** asked her scholars to tackle a variety of common but critical issues that impede spoken and written communication.

Scholars read the book *Quiet: The Power of Introverts* and considered the fact that how and where one falls on the introvert/extrovert spectrum impacts social interactions and communication styles. They also participated in a Third Person Day during which they spoke in third person to explore how a social faux pas changes a conversation. Classroom discussions covered topics such as the effectiveness of the CDC's zombie preparedness guide, how Instagram may be ruining vacations, how different cultures communicate respect through time, and why writing clear assembly directions for cheap furniture is so challenging.

Murray State University

Nick Gowen's class considered how our public personas resemble or differ from our private selves. They wanted to know: Is who you are inseparable from who people think you are?

The class first wondered what it means to be a Kentuckian and how that identity is shaped by outsiders' perceptions of the Commonwealth. Scholars also explored the notion of gender, realizing that much of this important identity marker is socially constructed. Jody Cofer Randall, Murray State University's Coordinator for the Office of LGBT Programming, spoke to the class about the transgender experience to further uncover the complexity of gender identity.

To take control of their public identities, the class organized a campus-wide storytelling event where scholars explained meaningful lessons they had learned from events in their lives. Ten scholars were selected to tell their stories at a community event in the final week of the program.

"This class opened my eyes to see not only who I am, but who I want to be."

— **Emily Rice,**
Henry County High School

Northern Kentucky University

Tim Phelps invited his scholars to explore the correlations people have between communication and society at all levels. Scholars practiced nonverbal methods of interaction and witnessed the importance of using precise words with accurate connotations—particularly when challenged to communicate information in ways that were unfamiliar. For example, the scholars participated in a day of silence, where they faced the obstacles in communicating without the use of one of their regular tools.

Scholars also studied the differences between the groups they associate with by choice and those that have been set upon them by others. The class researched flag design, recognizing that the best flags help create and encourage the civic pride that comes with successful social groups and communities. Through this research, scholars developed their own flag designs that they will propose to their hometowns after the summer.

CREATIVE WRITING & LITERARY STUDIES

Morehead State University

Elisha Sircy and his scholars investigated the various histories and forms of the personal essay, a deceptively simple genre with many permutations and purposes. Scholars studied the history of the form through ancient writers such as Seneca and Plutarch, considered the technical intricacies of the genre through epistolary essays by Sylvia Plath and travel essays by David Foster Wallace, and determined the

various ways to create a writer's persona through the whimsy of G.K. Chesterton and the cultural criticism of James Baldwin.

To produce work of their own, scholars first imagined specific situations for writing letters to compose their own epistolary essays. They also visited a film studio in Louisville to tour an unusual setting and get experience writing travel essays, and they looked at their own upbringing and cultural heritage to write a personal statement essay. They participated in workshops throughout the summer and hosted a public reading at a local coffee and bookshop in the final week.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Ron Reed's** class used both space and place as beginning points for their scholarly explorations. The class examined the work of bell hooks and journeyed to the Yeiser Art Center to see how other artists used space and place in hooks's literature to create their own interpretations. By visiting different

environments—including Murray's Freedom Fest celebration, Cundiff Farm, and Murray State University's Pogue Library—scholars found inspiration to compose pieces about space and place to share with their community.

The final project led scholars to collaborate with the Music Theory & Performance Focus Area to create a night of performance for the GSP community, inspired by themes studied throughout the summer.

Northern Kentucky University

Frank Ward and his scholars examined the nature of the narrative through a direct interaction with the short story process. Scholars created individual stories on a related theme, all of which were published in a collected volume of works. Starting with the fundamentals of plot, character, setting, and theme, each scholar moved through a professional writing approach, supported by in-class writer's groups and interaction and feedback from professional writers in the fields of drama, mystery, and science fiction. Scholars also generated micro-narratives in conjunction with art created by other scholars and had a public reading at a community showcase.



GSP-NKU scholars “people watch” at a local café to gain inspiration for character development in their short stories.

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Anna Youngyeun's** class examined human relationships with possessions. Beginning with a look at belongings within the GSP-Morehead community, the class learned the basics of anthropological inquiry and performed interviews, observational studies, and research. In-depth discussions about cultural appropriation, "othering" language, and accessibility of information led to a trip to the Kentucky Folk Art

Center. There, scholars viewed works of self-taught artists in a professional context.

The class later visited Morehead's Peddler's Mall, where each scholar selected a second-hand object. They performed extensive research on the human experience surrounding their chosen objects using ethnographic research and interview skills learned in the first weeks. These thrift items from Morehead in 2016 transported scholars to 1903 British relations with Tibet, socio-political climates of the Vietnam War, the depths of the human brain, New York City social spaces for women in 1911, and places in between and beyond.

"This class challenged me not only to consider the underlying causes of social change but also to think about how I can contribute to a solution to these broad cultural issues."

— **Elizabeth Duncan**, *Scott County High School*

Murray State University

Carly Muerterties introduced her scholars to the fundamentals of anthropological study, specifically reflecting on the skills needed to engage in inter- and cross-cultural conversations. To better analyze cultural relativism, scholars discussed the concept of cosmopolitanism and were challenged to consider the often-contradictory relationship between truth and facts. With an emphasis on understanding personal truths, scholars considered the foundation on which different groups make moralizations in order to create more inclusive dialogues with those around them.

This transitioned into an inquiry of the role that "honor" has in reinforcing and challenging societal norms. Scholars analyzed several examples of cultural



*GSP-Murray scholars discuss their book, **The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen**, to explore how honor culture affects societies worldwide.*

changes that were impacted by an evolved sense of personal and national honor, including dueling, the Atlantic slave trade, and the current problem of "honor killings." Through an unwrapping of these past and present actions, scholars assessed how each culture addressed these moral quandaries.

DRAMATIC EXPRESSION

Murray State University

Melanie Kidwell gave her scholars a challenging task in the program's first week: Bring the slums of Annawadi in Mumbai, India, to life.

They began with David Hare's adaptation of Katherine Boo's *Behind The Beautiful Forevers*. The script led them into a community of extreme poverty and complex characters and posed challenging questions: How do you keep your morality intact when circumstances seem set against you? Does everyone truly have the same opportunities?

Keeping these questions in mind, scholars began bringing the residents of Annawadi to life. Many scholars played characters that were very different from themselves in terms of gender, age, religion, and socioeconomic status. They focused on finding the common humanity: the desire for love and companionship, the drive to succeed in the world, and the conviction to be a "good" person. Visits to Nashville's Sri Ganesha Temple and the Islamic Center of Nashville allowed the class to explore the faith traditions of the men and women they were bringing to life.

At the end of the summer, the class performed their play for the GSP community, which prompted community-wide discussions of questions regarding identity and our place in the world.



GSP-NKU scholars rehearse a scene in character as John N. Fail and his dog, Pal.

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Meg Caudill's** Focus Area spent the summer developing a full-length performance that was presented to the entire scholar community during the fifth week of the program. Scholars prepared auditions for their desired roles, researched their characters once they were cast in their roles, and spent time developing their knowledge of their characters through text-based discussions.

Throughout their rehearsals, scholars were introduced to a variety of acting techniques to help them strengthen their acting skills. They also developed interpersonal skills and confidence while working together to create a cohesive acting ensemble.

"This class allowed us to put some of ourselves into our scenes so we weren't just reading lines—we were expressing parts of ourselves."

— **Devon Madison**, Nicholas County High School

ENGINEERING

Northern Kentucky University

Denise Owens asked her scholars to examine engineering's role in today's society and the many disciplines that engineering entails. The class was visited by several guest speakers, many of whom were former GSP scholars, to share their knowledge and experiences in chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, and structural engineering. The UK Solar Car Team also visited to illustrate the possibilities with engineering and renewable energy. Turning their newfound knowledge into action, the scholars participated in a research and design project to build a model of a specified product. Scholars in **Hans Chapman's** class also engaged in hands-on learning with several projects, including the challenge to build electronic circuits for household applications.

Both classes took field trips to understand how engineering puzzles are solved throughout Kentucky. They visited Duke Energy's Envision Center, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Lexmark, Markland Locks and Dam, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK), the University of Louisville's J.B. Speed School of Engineering, and William H. Harsha Lake. During these trips, scholars solved real-world design challenges; for example, at William H. Harsha Lake, they designed a road and bridge with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Scholars also solved a windshield engineering problem at Toyota with the help of the TMMK Team of Engineers.



Left, GSP-NKU scholars complete an engineering design project at Georgetown College; center, scholars work on a road and bridge design project at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Station at the William H. Harsha Lake Dam; right, scholars visit the old Dale Station electric power generation station in Winchester.

FILM STUDIES

Morehead State University

In **Jason Meenach's** class, scholars focused on the film director's central job as a storyteller. Scholars learned how filming techniques and the elements of composition are essential to storytelling and how they can be manipulated to achieve the desired effect.

The class visited a professional sound stage and studio at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, where scholars learned how to operate a drone, jib, ronin, and green screen. Next, they applied their new knowledge by writing, filming, and editing an original two-minute short film that the GSP community viewed in the final week of the program. Through their experience, scholars learned about the director's responsibility to tell the story—and that the filmmaker is limited only by his or her imagination.



During a set visit at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, GSP-Morehead scholars learn about everyone's roles and responsibilities while filming a project.

"My time at GSP wasn't just about learning; it was about releasing my creativity. I can't think of a better or more supporting environment to do that."

— **Bryden Allen**, Madison Central High School

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Ian Frank's** class considered the many ways that movies both reveal and create our culture. The class started with the premise that everything is a remix. Then, they searched for the origins of their favorite movies located in films they had never even heard of. Scholars also pushed their personal and artistic boundaries by watching films such as *Run Lola Run*, *F is for Fake*, and *Blade Runner*. They

also analyzed contemporary films such as *The Big Short* and *Gravity* to see how filmmakers today employ new technology in service of old storytelling fundamentals. To exercise their creativity, scholars looked to the past to recreate iconic film moments, harnessed the power of music to create visual poems, and unleashed their imagination to create group film projects.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Morehead State University

In **Will Garcia's** class, scholars studied violent and non-violent crimes. The class learned how to analyze blood spatter using math and physics, eventually figuring out the angle that blood hit a wall to determine how far away an imaginary victim stood when they were injured.

In groups, the class recreated a body farm to study the biological decomposition of dead roosters from a local farm. They researched the stages of decomposition and came up with a hypothesis of how their roosters would decompose. Scholars then placed the dead roosters in different scenarios, including inside an old T-shirt, submerged in water, and hanging in a bag. Throughout the summer, the groups noted the progress of their specimens and were able to prove correct much of the research conducted at the beginning of the summer.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Madison Sewell's** class investigated the influence, if any, that Sherlock Holmes had on the development of forensic science. The class studied a number of Holmes stories, covering forensic techniques ranging from fingerprints to the study of ashes and soil.

To see expert testimony in action, scholars traveled to Paducah to watch a trial involving an allegation of wrongful death. Scholars reviewed court documents to determine what should (and what should not) qualify as expert testimony before comparing their results with the court's rulings. Furthermore, scholars studied a Kentucky State Police investigation of a triple-homicide and traveled to the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex to investigate the human side of forensic science.

Northern Kentucky University

To learn the basics of forensic science, **Tyler Morris's** scholars engaged in hands-on experiences and met with a variety of experts in their fields. The class visited the Forensic Science Program at Eastern Kentucky University and worked with professors to examine physical evidence and learn about the process forensic analysts must go through to get scientifically accurate evidence. During another field trip, the class visited a cadaver laboratory to better understand how bodies are cared for and studied. Scholars also spoke to forensics analysts, attorneys, and a former secret service agent.

Later, scholars tested the limits of eyewitness testimonies. Class members collected eyewitness accounts of a community event and used their knowledge of interview techniques to plant false memories of the event. They were able to show some of the challenges and limitations facing law enforcement as they attempt to collect testimonies, helping scholars gain a greater understanding of the fragility of their own memories.

GSP-Murray scholars perform ballistics testing to analyze the relationship between barrel length and range of a weapon.



HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Morehead State University

Derek Moore's scholars researched and discussed hospice and palliative care, looking at the misconceptions and trends of this overlooked area. The class then traveled to Ashland's Hospice Care Center, a 15-bed facility for patients and their families during the dying process.

Scholars also delved into public health and epidemiology, running a simulation over several days of a hypothetical malaria outbreak in Georgia. The class conducted a cross-sectional survey,

correlating student behaviors such as sleep and diet with overall fatigue, tiredness, and weight gain.

Later, scholars traveled to Louisville's Cardiovascular Innovation Institute and met with faculty, including those who performed the first self-contained, wireless artificial heart transplant in the world.

Murray State University

Cindy Brainard and her scholars focused on the human brain and its many interconnections to body systems and functions. Discussion topics included brain injuries and anomalies, abnormal versus normal brain development, historical and current treatments, and lifelong brain development. Through these exercises, scholars concluded that everything related to physical and mental health depends on the health of our brains.

The class also visited a local nursing home weekly, and each scholar was assigned a "buddy" to interact with on visitation

days. Their relationships grew through the activities that the scholars planned and carried out with the residents throughout the summer. Thanks to the Area Health Education Center at Murray State University, scholars also learned how to gown and prep for surgery and mastered the basics of stitching up cuts and other body injuries.

Northern Kentucky University

Teresa Hoffmann's scholars were first tasked with creating display boards to inform the rest of the community about global and local health issues. Their topics included lifestyle and health behaviors (tobacco, drug and alcohol usage, physical exercise, and diet), cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and the Zika virus. Scholars researched causes, possible treatments, worldwide and local statistics, and prevention for these issues.

The class also engaged in a mini-nurse camp in the simulation facility at Northern Kentucky University. Scholars learned how to insert IVs, catheters, and feeding tubes. They took blood pressure measurements, monitored "patients," and practiced suturing. They also participated in a respiratory and radiography lab, learning hands on about both of these healthcare fields.

During "nurse camp," a GSP-NKU scholar wears a shake vest used to loosen mucus buildup in a patient with cystic fibrosis.



HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

“At GSP, I’m encouraged to be my best, not the best. Here I just have to be, and I’ve learned so much from just being.”

— **Abigail Anderson,**
Danville High School

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Steve Easley’s** class examined the lies embedded in American History textbooks and their impact on history classrooms across the nation. Through discussion of the book *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, scholars discussed topics including hero-making, the lack of serious discussion of social class in history, and how racial issues are portrayed in history textbooks. Scholars also learned about history in popular culture through listening to and performing excerpts from the soundtrack to the Tony-winning musical *Hamilton*.

Taking a cue from the hit musical, scholars asked themselves a question prevalent in the score: “Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?” On a visit to the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, scholars were able to learn about the practical nature of history, including the preservation of historical artifacts and how museums decide what to include in their exhibits.

Murray State University

Kristen Harris challenged her scholars to contemplate the origin of significant ideas in history and whether individuals or networks are more responsible for innovative thinking. The class read Steven Johnson’s biography of Joseph Priestley, *The Invention of Air*, as a scholarly treatment of the topic. Through close reading and small and large group discussion, scholars dissected, challenged, and expanded on Johnson’s ideas.

As they learned more about their topics, scholars began developing blogs, videos, or podcast recordings to share with a broader community of their choosing. They responded to comments and questions that their audiences posted to support the development of their intellectual network.

Finally, scholars considered the Declaration of Independence and the birth of American democracy as significant ideas created by a network of individuals. Scholars discussed how only certain groups were involved in defining independence and how this shaped America’s past, present, and future.



GSP-NKU scholars visit the Kentucky Historical Society’s preservation lab, where they inspect the shirt that Governor William Goebel wore when he was assassinated in 1900.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Morehead State University

Vik Shymansky's class studied major international events as they unfolded in real time, including Brexit, terrorist acts in France, the refugee crisis in the European Union, and the failed coup in Turkey. Scholars also discussed issues of modern warfare like "hybrid" wars, terrorism, and spin-offs of civil wars, namely in Syria. They applied their intellectual skills and talents toward analyzing current situations and suggesting their own ways of resolving the topical and potential issues in international domain. The class also held mock international conferences, negotiations, and discussions in the classroom through the prism of current international events.

"International relations gave me a new appreciation for the value of listening. For me, my voice always meant more to me than the value of my own silence. This class has allowed me to see the beauty in silence."

— **Kyle Capps**, *Scott County High School*

Murray State University

Collaborative efforts to explore terrorism, nationalism, the nature of conflict, and the refugee crisis were at the core of **Kyle Jones**'s class. Scholars read and discussed recently published literature on these topics in addition to viewing associated popular films. Emphasis focused on unpacking the sources of one's personal approach to international affairs to reveal how a collective imagining of the world takes shape.

This process of critically reading, discussing, and watching culminated in the scholars, in small groups, recording and publishing weekly podcasts. The scholars were challenged to incorporate a personalized theme or perspective for their podcast to articulate a unique brand. The resulting discussions were edited by the scholars and uploaded to iTunes. Scholars promoted their products by sharing the final results with scholars at other campuses, as well as with friends and family.



GSP-Murray scholars from the International Relations Focus Area contribute to a scholar-led panel discussion on diversity and prejudice.

JOURNALISM & MASS MEDIA

Morehead State University

Faculty member **Mel Coffee's** Focus Area studied several aspects of news and media and how conflicting interests of stakeholders make journalism such a complicated, challenging, and critical field to be engaged in. Scholars focused on the business and profit side of news, as well as the responsibilities broadcasters and publishers have to produce content that recognizes viewers, readers, and listeners as primary stakeholders.

They debated issues of ethics, diversity, media bias and political coverage.

Scholars also produced their own television/online newscast using professional studio and equipment, and they worked in several areas including reporting, anchoring, sports reporting and producing, writing, management, and production. Finally, scholars wrote, produced, and voiced public service announcements that aired on the NPR station in Morehead.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Bella Ezumah's** class immediately delved into the field of journalism through hands-on activities. They engaged in a scavenger hunt for news stories and curated them through Storify; developed and practiced interviewing skills; and created a 36-page print magazine for the GSP-Murray community by gathering information, writing, editing, fundraising, and using electronic design tools.

Referencing media theories of agenda setting, framing, and the "spiral of silence," scholars also considered how media contents are received and interpreted by an audience. A trip to the WPSD Local6 television station and the *Murray Ledger and Times* newspaper gave scholars the opportunity to witness live news broadcasts and a newspaper printing assembly line.



Northern Kentucky University

James Kenney and his scholars covered a wide range of methods of storytelling, including writing, photography, video, and audio. Scholars wrote a profile story on a fellow scholar, photographed a Florence Freedom baseball game, documented the Kenton County Fair, and covered a multicultural event at the Cincinnati Zoo. Using their own images, scholars learned the basics of Photoshop as it applies to digitally processing images.

Scholars also toured the television and online facilities at WCPO Channel 9 in Cincinnati, where they learned about how technology is driving innovative forms of delivering news content. They sat in on a news meeting and observed a discussion among the editors about coverage of the Dallas police shootings that had occurred the day before.

A GSP-NKU scholar photographs a young Kenton County Fair contestant competing in the stick horse race.

MODES OF MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Murray State University

Jeremy White's scholars examined one of the most basic concepts in the world of mathematical thinking: numbers. Through readings, discussions, and various group activities, the scholars explored the history of counting, as well as the "personalities" of certain numbers.

The scholars also learned that numbers have been one of the main ingredients in both simple and complex mathematical ideas. By reading and watching informative documentaries, the class uncovered some mathematical treasures that stem from a deeper understanding of numbers. For example, they studied the foundations of exponential growth that can be observed throughout nature. They also looked in depth at the origins of both geometry and trigonometry.

Through their work in class, scholars ultimately came to understand that numbers are at the heart of mathematical thinking.

"Math is discoverable anywhere and everywhere, connecting man with nature in ways that are rarely discovered without dedicated thought. This class was specifically designed to do just that: encourage critical thought in the realm of mathematics."

— **Ethan Paff**,
Scott High School

Northern Kentucky University

"How to predict the future" was the theme of **Jason Dooley's** Focus Area. The class explored various methods of prognostication in all sorts of settings, from the plays of William Shakespeare to ancient fortune-telling rituals to modern-day data journalism. Using the work of baseball statistician turned political pundit Nate Silver as a basis, the scholars explored the implications of the laws of probability as a guide to making better predictions and also discovered ways to use what they learned to make sense of the world around them.

On a field trip to the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati, the scholars used statistical analysis to help them determine the optimal way to build a baseball team. In the classroom, they looked at various pundits' reads on the ongoing U.S. presidential election to see if they could figure out why the predictions succeeded or failed. Ultimately, the scholars devised their own methods to make better predictions for the future and assess their own successes and failures as prognosticators.



A GSP-NKU scholar explores the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum, where the class learned about the history of baseball in Cincinnati and explored how statistical analysis is used in modern baseball.

MUSIC THEORY & PERFORMANCE

Morehead State University

Anne McNamara's class explored rhythm in its many forms and applications. Scholars learned how to experience rhythm through unique ways such as performing traditional drumming music from around the world, marching and performing an original cadence on their bucket drums in Morehead's Fourth-on-the-First parade, layering various rhythms in a minimalist composition, and transcribing rhythms that they first learned by ear.

A visit to the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music opened their eyes and ears to bluegrass, and it also granted them the opportunity to record a piece in a professional recording studio. They experienced firsthand the historic music of Trinidad through a steel drum concert and workshop. Finally, scholars studied Beethoven's life and music prior to attending the Cincinnati Opera's performance of his opera *Fidelio*.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Tana Field's** class pondered their own musical strengths and backgrounds while focusing on the mechanics of music and musical composition. The class investigated the basics of melodic composition, chord progression, and transposition while creating and leading a community sing-along for the Fourth of July. Additionally, scholars contemplated the value of silence in music, were introduced to the basics of species counterpoint, and had the opportunity to share their musical knowledge with someone in a peer-teaching scenario.

In collaboration with the Creative Writing & Literary Studies Focus Area, the class created an original musical work to perform. They provided their ideas for texts and storylines, composed the music, wrote the script, staged the production, and performed live for the GSP community.

PHILOSOPHY

Murray State University

John Wilcox and his scholars debated philosophical answers to questions about the nature of reality and the human person. Does there exist an area of reality that is immaterial or spiritual, or is reality only physical? Do humans have souls that exist over and above our bodies? Do we have free will, or are all of our actions determined by causes beyond our control?

Recognizing that there are no absolutely certain answers to questions like these, scholars wondered what the different answers would imply about the meaning of human existence, our place in the world, and our moral obligations to others. Are we as individuals different or separate from reality? What do we owe to others, and what should we expect?

The class also joined with two other Focus Areas—Political & Legal Issues and International Relations—to study the theory of “just war.”

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Lisa Hick's** Focus Area examined many different areas of philosophy but focused in particular on argument, friendship, and value. Those three concepts formed the touchstones for the class, and each one formed the basis for a major project.

During their argument unit, scholars found argumentative pieces of writing, examined them with an eye toward claims and evidence, and then presented their assessments of the arguments to the class. The friendship unit included a set of readings, one from Aristotle and one from contemporary philosopher Alexander Nehamas; then, scholars discussed portrayals of friendship in the film *The History Boys*. The value unit included a trip to the Cincinnati Art Museum and culminated in a scholar-created survey that matched their peers from other Focus Areas with philosophical schools and movements.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Morehead State University

Faculty member **Greg Jacobelli** explored with his scholars the physical forces that shape Earth, dictate the dynamics of flight, and limit modern space exploration. Using balsa wood, scholars explored Bernoulli's Principle by designing and building their own planes and a section of a wing. The class then visited Bowman Field in Louisville to see examples of simple flight maintenance and aircraft design.

Next, scholars studied the dynamics of the space environment and learned about

manned and unmanned space exploration. The scholars watched the live test of a spacecraft that will again take humans into deep space. They then designed and built scale models of a segment and launched their scale models. Their space discussion culminated in a visit with Dr. Ben Malphrus, the director of Morehead State University's Space Science Center. Dr. Malphrus explained the process of putting a Morehead State University-built satellite in orbit around the moon in 2018.

"GSP has helped me see what the future has in store for me and has ultimately ignited a passion for innovation in my heart."

— **Chase Peterson,**
Eastern High School

Murray State University

Scholars in **Melanie Timmers's** class studied applications of physical science through innovation and unconventional thinking. They investigated the chemical reactions associated with the colors and special effects of fireworks and participated in a Q&A session with the American Pyrotechnics Association to learn more about the fireworks industry, safety in design, and the use of legal fireworks.

The class also explored unusual phenomena within the central U.S. region: earthquakes. Scholars met a seismologist and visited sites along the New Madrid Seismic Zone to learn more about the history of earthquakes in the area, how the region is seismically active, the earthquake threat today, and other related topics.

Finally, scholars considered the idea of renewable energy, its environmental benefits, and how it promotes energy security, jobs, and the economy. Scholars visited and discussed the impact of two renewable energy projects in Kentucky: a solar photovoltaic panel over a capped landfill at Fort Campbell and an anaerobic digester at Perdue Farms that uses organic waste to help power their facility.



GSP-Murray scholars visit Reelfoot Lake and listen to seismologist Seth Carpenter discuss the impacts of the 1811-1812 earthquakes on the Western Kentucky landscape.

POLITICAL & LEGAL ISSUES

Morehead State University

“It’s not just what you say; it’s how you say it.” This well-known phrase served as the guiding principle for **Jim Seaver’s** Focus Area. Scholars studied the art of political communication from a variety of angles, exploring the ways in which elected officials, communications directors, speechwriters, press secretaries, journalists, lobbyists, and activists interact with the American public about issues that matter to them.

Among the most valuable experiences for scholars were the simulation scenarios in which they took turns crafting and delivering political speeches before a live audience; in another activity, they stepped into the shoes of the White House press secretary, which taught them how to deliver briefings and respond to tough questions from journalists. As a capstone project, each scholar worked with a candidate and teammates to film short campaign ads viewed by the entire GSP community prior to a mock election.

Murray State University

Peter Berres and his scholars considered their personal political assumptions and values and then took ideology quizzes to evaluate where they placed on the ideological spectrum versus their expectations.

Scholars then chose an issue of personal interest and were assigned to work with a classmate to develop opposing ideas by reading professional journal articles from different perspectives. They presented their contrary arguments and suggested ways to find common ground between opposing positions.

Finally, scholars selected to run a mock election, with parties made up of a range of platforms representing strong and moderate liberal to conservative parties. After a community election, the results were tabulated, analyzed, and presented to the GSP community in a creative performance that ended with questions for scholars to ponder. The presentation was followed by a voter registration drive for eligible members of the community.



The Political and Legal Issues and Forensic Science classes at GSP-NKU team up to hold mock trials of civil and criminal cases.

Northern Kentucky University

In **Frank Russell’s** class, scholars set a philosophical context for contemporary political and legal issues. They began with a discussion of the ideal of justice and the creation of the just state in Plato’s *Republic*, followed by considerations of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke. Next, the scholars turned to applications of theory in the principles of the U.S. Constitution and in the formation of political culture and policy.

The summer proved particularly rich in material to examine on the global scale, given the presidential primaries and conventions, the wave of terrorist activity at home and abroad, the attempted coup in Turkey, and the aftermath of the Brexit vote. More local concerns included Kentucky education policy; social and legal issues in Kentucky, addressed by state Attorney General Andy Beshear; and the legal profession in Kentucky, on which Amelia Adams, executive director of the Kentucky Bar Foundation, shared her thoughts.

PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIORAL STUDIES

Morehead State University

Jay Crocker's class focused on the major themes in Domenica Ruta's memoir *With or Without You*. This allowed the students to focus on the powerful effects of poverty, addiction, abuse, grief, death, and recovery. The scholars then explored these concepts through hands-on activities that demonstrated the effects of racism, poverty, and the joys and trials of recovery.

Both classes met with a variety of Kentucky mental health professionals, including a child psychiatrist and a forensic psychologist, to learn about the concepts covered not only in their memoir, but also how they apply to modern psychology.

Scholars in **Jessie Reed's** class investigated how human behavior is affected by social and interpersonal influences, the environment, circumstances, stigmas, and resilience. The class explored the social influences of compliance, authority, obedience, and power.

Additionally, the class examined environmental factors such as family dynamics, trauma, and the stigmas surrounding mental health and the psychology field. To develop a deeper understanding of their behavior and others', the class read the memoir *The Glass Castle* and examined psychological research. Finally, scholars experienced the positive effects of animals on clinical populations when they visited Frankfort's LIFEhouse for Animals and took the dogs to interact with patients with dementia.

"This class showed me how crucial it is to think, how big and complex the human mind is, and how 'it depends' really is the best answer in some situations."

— **Kolbie Vincent**,
Edmonson County High School

Murray State University

Adriane Hardin-Davis and her scholars spent their summer trying to understand the lived experiences of Kentuckians impacted by posttraumatic stress syndrome, addiction, and intellectual disabilities.

Their research led them to SAFE (Soldiers and Families Embraced), a mental health facility serving veterans in Western Kentucky and Northern Tennessee. Scholars spoke with therapists at SAFE about new PTSD treatments and group therapy opportunities offered at the facility. The scholars also met with Jennifer Taylor, a therapist at Murray State University's Counseling and Testing Center who utilizes drumming to treat a variety of mental health issues, including PTSD and addiction.

Scholars also traveled to Nashville's Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, a research facility with a mission of improving the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. They met with graduates of Next Steps, a post-secondary experience for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The scholars learned about the development of Next Steps and examined similar initiatives available in Kentucky.

Northern Kentucky University

While scholars in **Irene Bozio** and **Kyle Smith's** class gained a basic understanding of topics in forensic psychology and the psychology behind basic human communication, they took particular interest in the study of mental illness. The class examined mental illness's pervasiveness within society and how those who are affected cope with daily struggles. By reading Nassir Ghaemi's *A First Rate Madness*, scholars discovered that many prominent historic figures exhibited signs of mental illness.

Wynn McDonald of Berea Community High School reflected, "I was intrigued to learn the historical relationship between mental illness and great leadership qualities. I learned about how many of our greatest presidents had crippling disorders that may have helped them in times of crisis."

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Clint Hendrix's** Focus Area considered the recent rise in unaccompanied Central American minors attempting to enter the U.S. without documentation. Dissecting the platforms of presidential nominees Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, scholars were asked to put aside partisan politics to find the best and worst proposed solutions to the immigration crisis.

Scholars explored these themes through documentaries and discussions of Sonia Nazario's award-winning book *Enrique's Journey*, which chronicles a seventeen-year-old Honduran's difficult voyage through Central America and Mexico to reunite with his mother in the U.S. Applying what they learned from these discussions, scholars created their own video project about immigration stories within the GSP-Morehead community to dispel stereotypes and showcase the vast array of ancestral backgrounds within Kentucky.



GSP-Morehead scholars present their multimedia art projects showcasing what they learned about Central American child immigration.

Murray State University

Jeff O'Field and his scholars studied multilingualism in historical and contemporary contexts. Each scholar completed research on the relationship between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, two independent nations that share one island and a diverse linguistic background. They also read Edwidge Danticat's *The Farming of Bones*, which tells the story of the 1937 Parsley Massacre, an event that remains a defining feature of relations between the two countries.

The class later visited Nashville's Casa Azafrán to learn about the collaborative work of local non-profit organizations. Scholars spoke with leaders who work together to provide quality services to international residents and long-time Nashville residents.

Additionally, the class invited other Focus Area classes to join them for interdisciplinary Salsa Nights. Scholars then shared articles and activities that explored salsa dance from varied perspectives, including socio-cultural and scientific approaches.

"I want to find a way to be immersed in the Spanish-speaking community. I got a taste of that this summer, and the learning experience was unparalleled to what I normally receive in a classroom."

— **Marjorie Agbor,**
Lexington Catholic High School

VISUAL ARTS

Morehead State University

Faculty member **Deeno Golding's** class explored all facets of “art,” first defining art and what it means to be an artist and then discussing the value of art within their communities. Scholars considered the business of art and learned how to market and promote their artwork. They also discussed the benefits of having both digital and analog portfolios, creating an artistic identity, creating an audience for their artwork, and seeking out opportunities to exhibit their artwork. Through the creation of art, scholars were given opportunities to express themselves visually and learn a broad range of skills and concepts.

“I didn’t think I could love art any more before GSP, but taking this class strengthened my confidence and legitimized my creative expression.”

— **Katherine Crain**, *Elizabethtown High School*

Northern Kentucky University

In **Matt Curless's** Focus Area, scholars were encouraged to get out of their zones—not just from the physical classroom, but also the usual type of art that they have created in class. On the first day, the scholars were asked to define and explain their own philosophies of art, what “good” art is (or isn’t), and whether or not differences exist between “arts” and “crafts.”

Throughout the program, scholars learned a variety of drawing techniques to improve their work. Whether it was using the grid system on self-portraits or the graphite transfer technique on scratchboard etchings, scholars left with a better understanding of creating, seeing, and understanding art. This was evident in a final exhibition of their work for the entire GSP-NKU campus during the last week of the program.



A GSP-NKU scholar works on a non-objective painting that reflects a specific life experience.

GENERAL STUDIES

General Studies classes emphasize creative thinking, problem solving, service learning, and civic engagement. Scholars are assigned to a General Studies class that takes a counter approach to learning than their Focus Area class. This policy is based on the philosophy that to be true scholars, scientists should appreciate the humanities and humanists should understand the importance of science and technology in our world today.

The following is a small sample of the General Studies classes offered in 2016.

Mud Pies

Murray State University

Cindy Brainard's class focused on rocks, minerals, and all things geological. Scholars learned to identify mineral types and researched the state's geological history and uncovered that the area was once a warm, shallow sea, which explains the many marine fossils discovered in the area. The class visited a local stream in the Land Between the Lakes area to search for fossilized rocks, which were brought back to the classroom to classify.

Because of Kentucky's unique geography, caves were of particular interest to the scholars. The class took a trip to Mammoth Cave, where they observed the results of the action of underground water flow through limestone.

By making connections between geology and their individual Focus Areas, scholars ultimately concluded that the earth beneath our feet is connected to almost every aspect of our lives.

Who Tells Your Story?

Northern Kentucky University

After a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, scholars in **Irene Bozio** and **Kyle Smith's** class discussed giving voice to those who history tends to forget. Scholars learned about the importance of quilt making to tell stories and convey messages during slavery-era America, and they got a chance to sew their own pillow that shared a message about themselves. The class also discussed

issues related to modern-day slavery and human trafficking and how to best give voice to those who often are unheard.

The five weeks culminated with scholars interviewing members of the Northern Kentucky University community. From cafeteria staff to recreation center workers, scholars told the stories of those who serve the GSP community every day but whose personal lives are often unseen.

The Wisdom of the Desert

Murray State University

Jeremy White's scholars explored the lives of hermits and monks from different cultural traditions. The class uncovered aspects of contemporary theology, philosophy, and psychology introduced as early as the fourth century A.D. by people who fled from cities to take up a simple life. Scholars were challenged to find the value and applicability for the modern world of wisdom that originated from people centuries ago.

By participating in activities concerning self-reflection and silent contemplation, the scholars were encouraged to step away from the routine business of modern life. They compared various concepts from the Christian and Buddhist monastic traditions and looked for commonalities in messages of peacefulness, selflessness, and compassion. Near the end of the course, scholars worked in small groups to develop skits that exhibited contemporary examples of living out the teachings that can be found in the ancient monastic tradition.

Afterlives

Morehead State University

People throw stuff away all the time, but what happens after it is discarded? Where does it go? Who works with it once it gets there? And what is its enduring impact upon the world we live in?

These questions guided **Jim Seaver's** scholars as they investigated the dirty, smelly, hidden afterlives of the waste that our society generates, as well as ways in which people can reduce or recycle the materials they routinely discard. After conducting an "autopsy" on the garbage generated in their dorms, scholars formed a "Green Team" to educate their peers and advocate for better use of campus recycling facilities. They also removed 116 pounds of garbage from Triplett Creek in downtown Morehead and traveled to Ashland to help River Cities Harvest divert 5,122 pounds of still-edible food to local charities that assist people experiencing food insecurity or homelessness.

A GSP-Morehead scholar carries milk from River Cities Harvest to donate to local food charities.

Grit

Morehead State University

In psychology, grit is a trait based on an individual's passion for a particular long-term goal or end state coupled with a powerful motivation to achieve their objective. Scholars in **Jamie Hester's** General Studies spent five weeks exploring this trait. With a strong emphasis on the current bestseller *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, the class explored questions such as: Do I have grit? Does everyone at GSP have grit? Which Kentuckians are known for their grit? Are you born with it, or can you learn to be gritty?

Scholars tested their own "grittiness" by running the Pi Race (3.14 km), conquering the Morehead State University challenge ropes course, meditating with the guest master of Furnace Mountain Zen Buddhist temple, and helping reroute a portion of the Sheltoewe Trail near Cave Run Lake.



2016 SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE SURVEY

Each summer, before leaving their respective campuses, all Governor's Scholars are asked to complete a Scholar Experience Survey consisting of approximately thirty questions pertaining to all aspects of life at GSP. Program staff use the survey results to help gauge the success of the summer's activities, assist in the evaluation of faculty and staff performance, and better understand the Program's impact on the

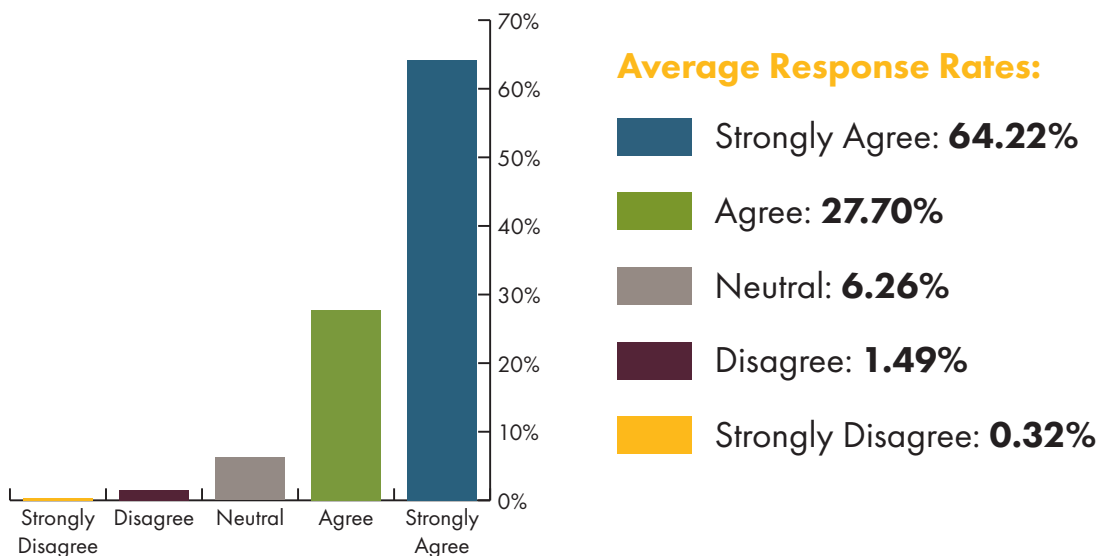
scholars themselves. Most importantly, the survey functions as a tool that better equips Program and campus administrators as they plan for the upcoming summer.

The following is a sample of results from the 2016 Scholar Experience Survey, organized by areas of emphasis within the Program. For a complete list of the survey questions and detailed results, please see the GSP website at www.gsp.ky.gov.

Overall Results

Considering the results of the survey as a whole, the scholars overwhelmingly rated their experience as positive. In fact, on average, participants selected either "strongly agree" or "agree" 93.7% of the time. In comparison, "neutral" responses

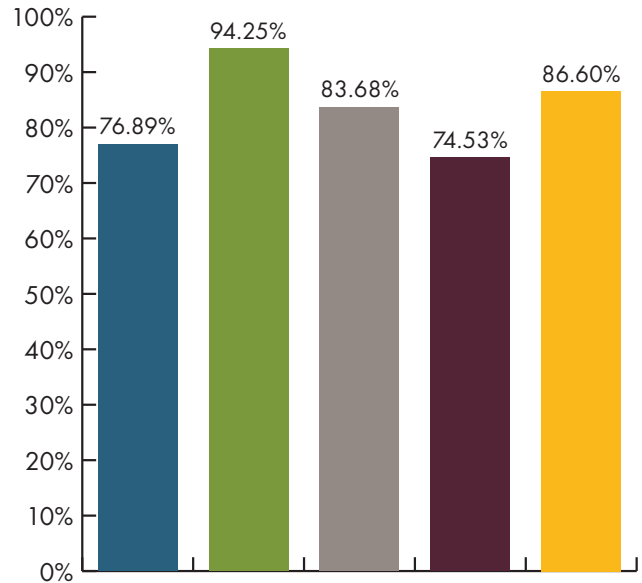
made up 4.91% of the total. Scholars very rarely reacted negatively to the survey prompts, choosing "disagree" only 1.1% of the time and "strongly disagree" in only 0.27% of responses. No question received a negative response rate above 4.34%.



Leadership & Personal Growth

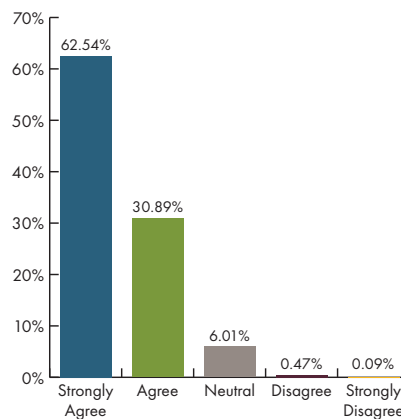
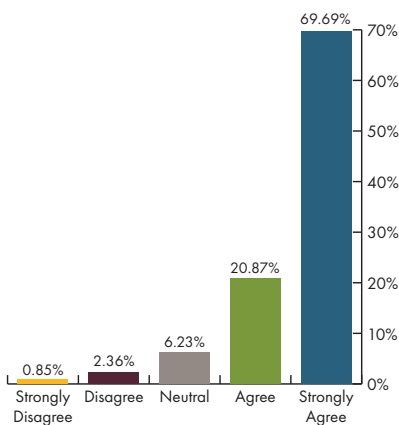
"My participation in the Governor's Scholars Program has strengthened my..."

- Awareness of my career and/or academic path
- Network of relationships with scholars from across Kentucky
- Preparedness to tackle challenges and seek solutions
- Love of learning
- Leadership skills and potential



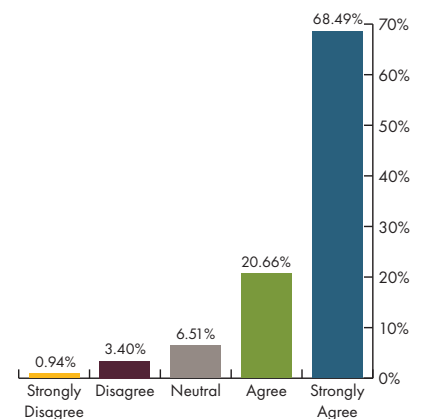
Academics

"My Focus Area was a positive learning experience."

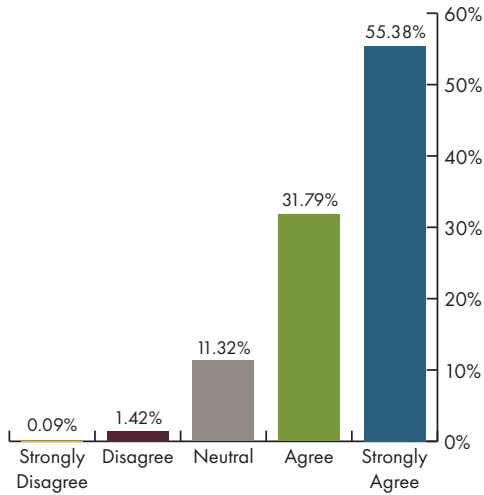


"GSP provided me with **meaningful classroom experiences.**"

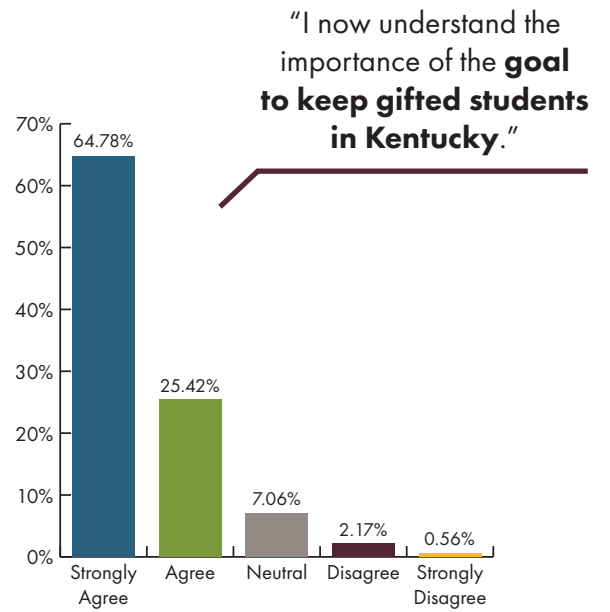
"My General Studies was a positive learning experience."



Kentucky Connections

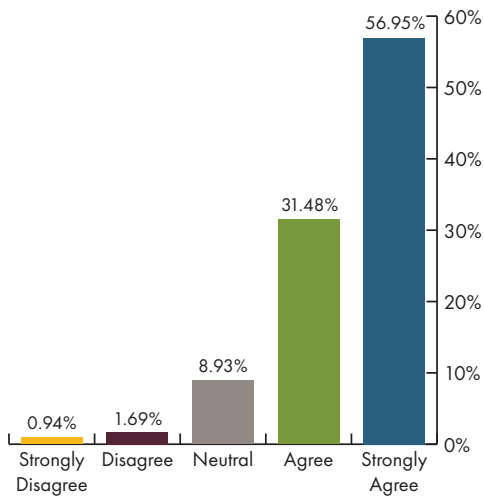


"I will be able to find **more opportunities** in my school and my community."

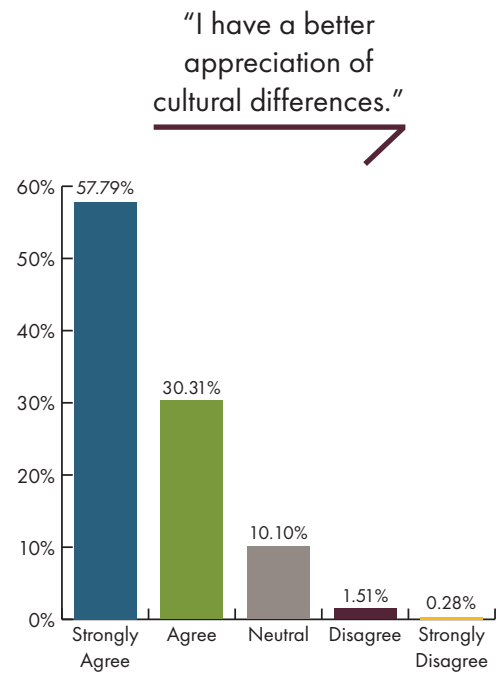


"I now understand the importance of the **goal to keep gifted students in Kentucky.**"

Community & Cultural Awareness



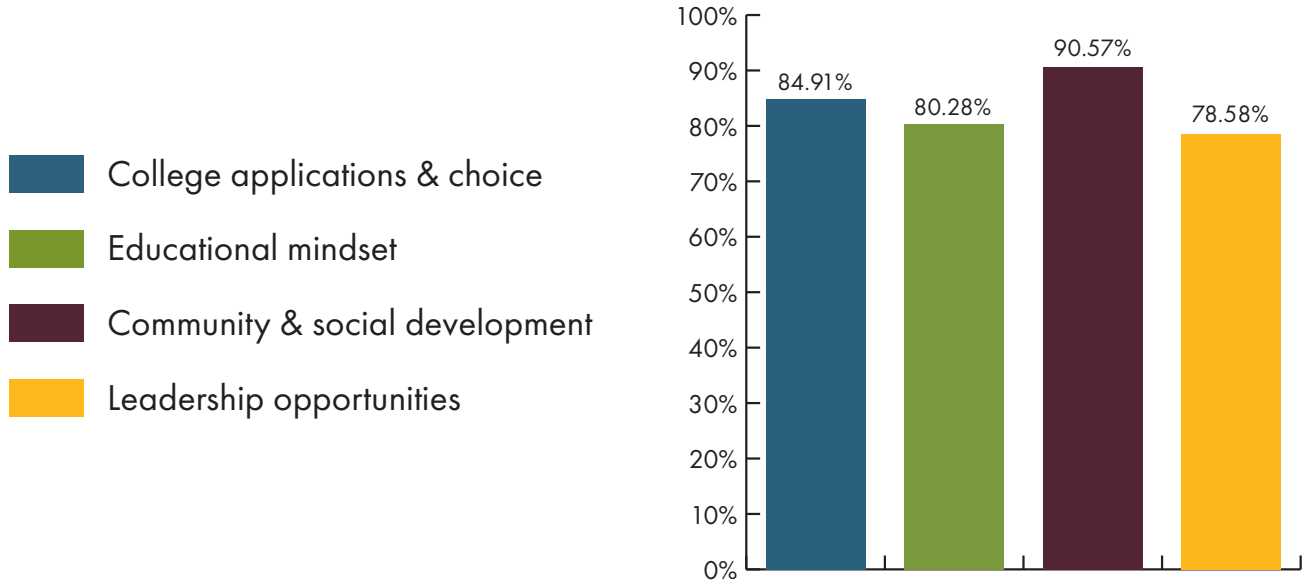
"**GSP opened my mind** to cultures within Kentucky and to diverse cultures within the world."



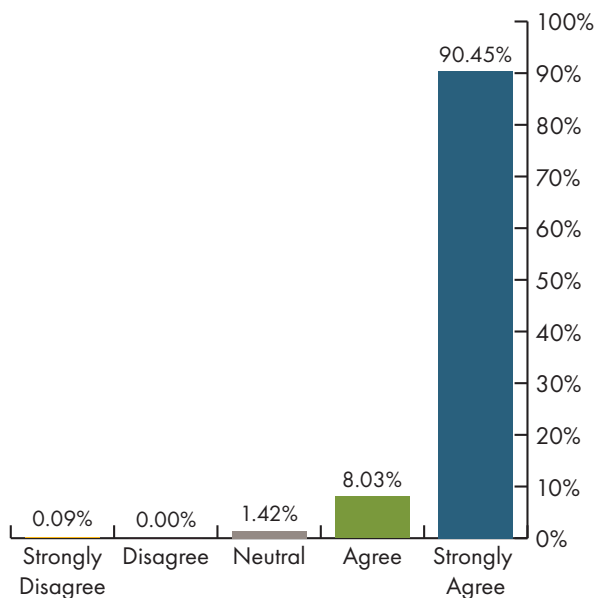
"I have a better appreciation of cultural differences."

College & Career Readiness

"GSP helped me prepare for one or more of these aspects of life in college and beyond."



Program Recommendation



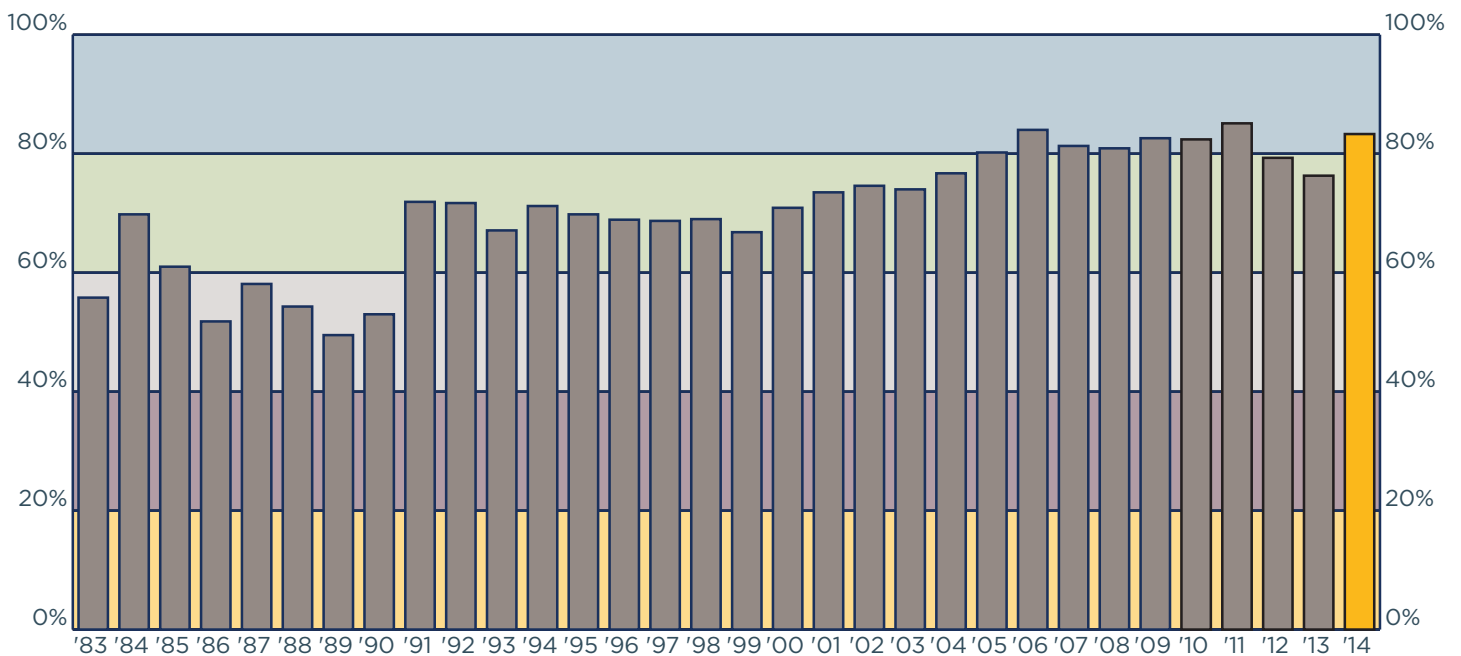
"I will encourage other students from my school and/or district to apply to participate in the Program."

SCHOLAR IN-STATE DATA

College Enrollment

With the help of the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Governor's Scholars Program tracks the number of scholars who pursue higher education at a Kentucky college or university. The following graph shows the percentage of scholars, by Program year, who enrolled at an in-state college or university after completing high school.

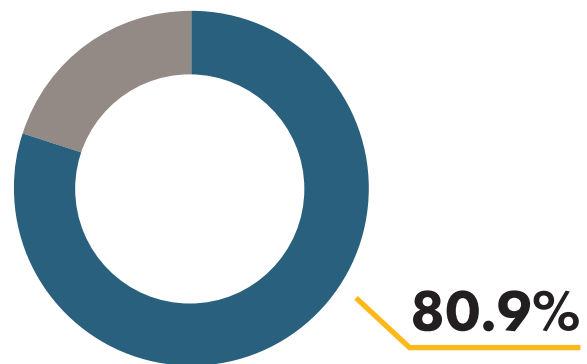
Of the 2014 scholars, the most recent year for which data is available, 83.3% enrolled at a Kentucky college or university in the fall of 2015.



Permanent Residence

As of September 2016, 28,623 students have completed the Governor's Scholars Program. The Program currently has valid contact information on file for 23,888 living alumni.

Of those, 19,348, or 80.9%, have a permanent address within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



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The GSP Foundation

The Governor's Scholars Program Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization that exists solely to support the Governor's Scholars Program, Inc. The GSP Foundation supplements public funding to finance the GSP's daily operations and special initiatives.

For more information or to make a contribution, please contact:

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Morehead, Kentucky