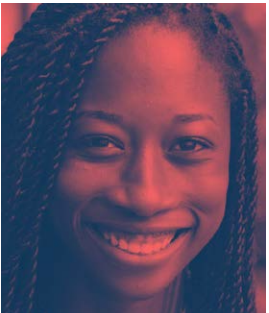


35 YEARS OF CREATING COMMUNITY

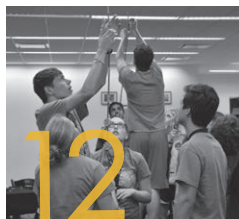


2017 ACADEMIC REPORT



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from the

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

When you see the tree in the GSP's 35th anniversary logo, certain words may come to mind: strength, resilience, growth. Certainly, these are all characteristics that our logo represents. But in his book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben describes a quality of trees that is sometimes overlooked: adaptability. "As almost no habitat on Earth offers ideal living conditions," Wohlleben writes, "It's actually got more to do with the tree adapting than the niche being ideal." Trees learn to thrive in even the most extreme environments—freezing temperatures, arid deserts, and gusty alpine heights. "A tree that can get along in such places can conquer an enormous geographic range," Wohlleben notes.

Adaptability is one of the GSP's central values. We teach our scholars that leadership requires adapting core knowledge to new environments and challenges. This value was evident throughout classes on each of our campuses this summer. At Morehead State University, one class learned about the decimation of the American Chestnut tree and how biologists are creating hybrid that will be resistant to fungus. Scholars at Murray State University explored the human brain's plasticity and considered how our educational system accommodates changes in the developing brain. On the Northern Kentucky University campus, a class was asked to construct a comfortable structure where scholars could gather during the final week of the program—using only plastic sheeting,

packing tape, and box fans.

Each experience challenged scholars to transform their existing skills and think in new ways. To quote Wohlleben, this adaptability will help scholars "conquer an enormous range" during their life's work: finding meaning, achieving success, reaching goals, realizing dreams, and building a bright future for everyone.

But to adapt, a tree must have healthy roots. Roots learn to absorb nutrients from new types of soil so that the tree can continue to grow. They also stabilize the tree when faced with unexpected weather—fierce winds, turbulent storms. At the GSP, we believe that our scholars' "roots" in Kentucky are part of what help them thrive as leaders in any situation. Those roots, whether intellectual, social, physical, emotional, vocational, or spiritual, will strengthen each scholar's path to becoming a leader. With your support, this serves to accomplish the GSP's mission of nurturing the future civic and economic leaders of Kentucky and beyond. Thank you

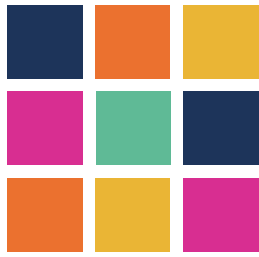
for letting our future builders follow our aspired style and character in their building.

As the program looks to the next 35 years, we too will adapt to a changing world. Your continued support allows us to offer new areas of study, guest speakers with fresh ideas, field trips to hubs of innovation, and more. Thank you for helping our scholars grow and adapt so that they remain deeply rooted in the culture and heritage of our Commonwealth.




Aris Cedeño

Executive Director &
Academic Dean



SCHOLARS

ACCEPTED

BY

COUNTY

Counties with up to 3 Governor's Scholars in 2017

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Adair | Caldwell | Crittenden | Garrard | Lawrence | Martin | Morgan* | Russell |
| Bell | Carlisle | Edmonson | Green | Lee | Mason | Ohio | Trimble |
| Ballard | Carroll | Elliott | Hancock | Leslie | McCreary | Owen | Union |
| Bourbon | Carter | Estill | Hart | Letcher | McLean | Owsley | Washington |
| Bracken | Casey | Fleming | Hickman | Livingston | Menifee | Perry | Wayne |
| Breathitt | Clay | Fulton | Jackson | Lyon | Metcalfe | Powell | Webster |
| Butler | Clinton | Gallatin | Knott | Magoffin | Monroe | Robertson | Wolfe |

Counties with 4–6 Governor's Scholars

| | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Allen | Breckenridge | Grayson | LaRue | Nicholas | Spencer |
| Anderson | Cumberland | Harlan | Lewis | Pendleton | Woodford |
| Bath | Floyd | Harrison | Marshall | Rowan | Todd |
| Boyd | Graves | Henry | Mercer | Simpson | Trigg |

7–9 Scholars

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Grant | Logan |
| Henderson | Marion |
| Jessamine | Montgomery |
| Knox | Rockcastle |
| Laurel | Shelby |
| Lincoln | |

10–14 Scholars

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Barren | Hopkins |
| Calloway | Johnson |
| Clark | Meade |
| Franklin | Muhlenberg |
| Greenup | Taylor |

15–25 Scholars

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Boyle | McCracken |
| Bullitt | Nelson |
| Campbell | Oldham |
| Christian | Pike |
| Davies | Pulaski |
| Hardin | Scott |
| Madison | Whitley |

26–50

| |
|--------|
| Boone |
| Warren |

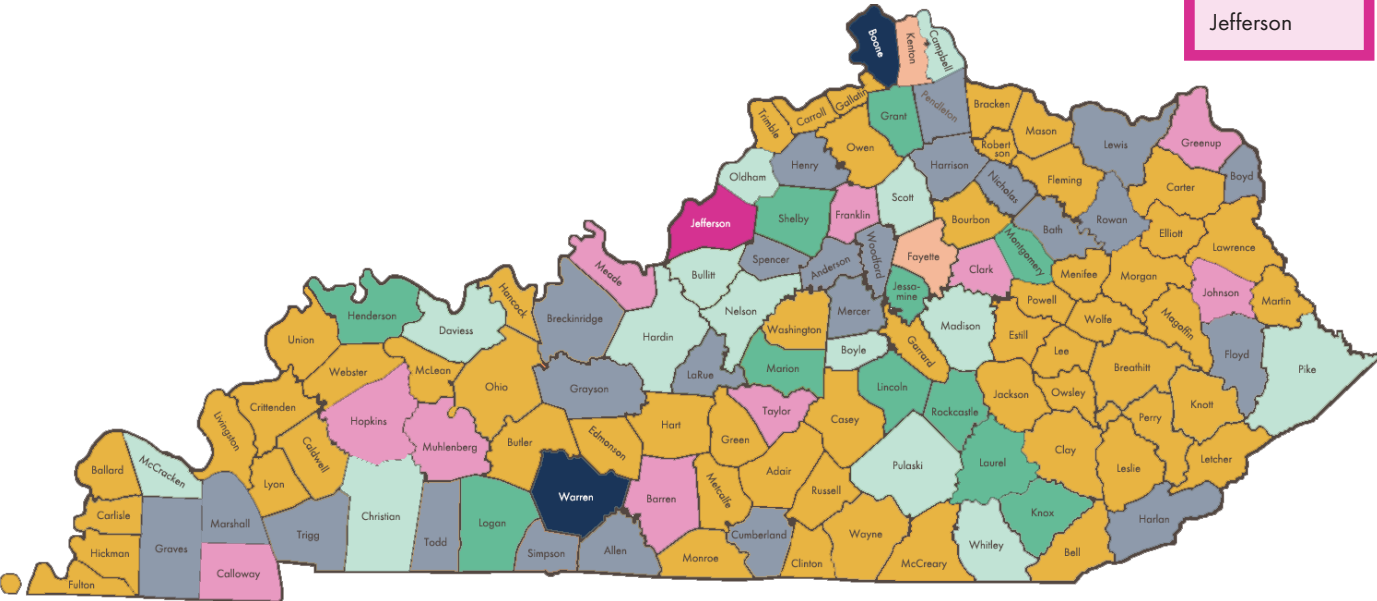
51–100

| |
|---------|
| Fayette |
| Kenton |

175+

| |
|-----------|
| Jefferson |
|-----------|

*Denotes county not represented



FOCUS AREAS

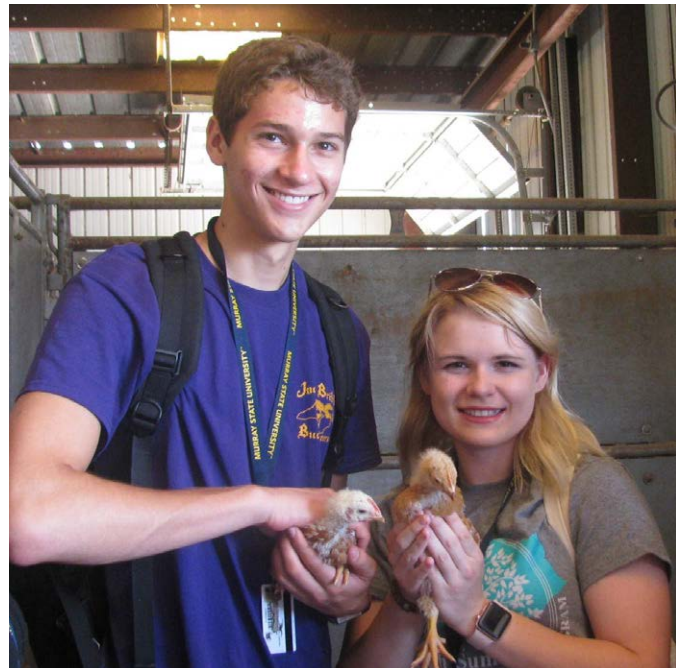


agribusiness & biotechnology

Murray State University

Led by faculty member **Iin Handayani**, scholars had the opportunity to visit agribusinesses in Western Kentucky, including United Livestock Commodities (ULC) in Mayfield, Commonwealth Agri-Energy Plant in Hopkinsville, Cassidy's Cause Therapeutic Riding Academy & Farmers Market in Paducah, and a bee farm at Murray State University. The scholars also engaged with guest speakers on topics ranging from agricultural economics, animal science, finance, marketing, crop biotechnology, horticulture, agricultural education, and agronomy.

Biotechnology issues became a class focus during a visit to Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville, where scholars learned about histology, clinical pathology, and toxicology. They also explored the Animal Health Technology and Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program and livestock farms at Murray State University. At Hancock Biological Station, they learned about biodiversity research in water ecosystems around Kentucky Lake.



GSP-Murray scholars play with chickens during a field trip to the Murray State University farm.

Becca Brown
Greenup County High School

"This class introduced me to modern farming—and a prediction of what agriculture could be in the future."

architectural design

Murray State University

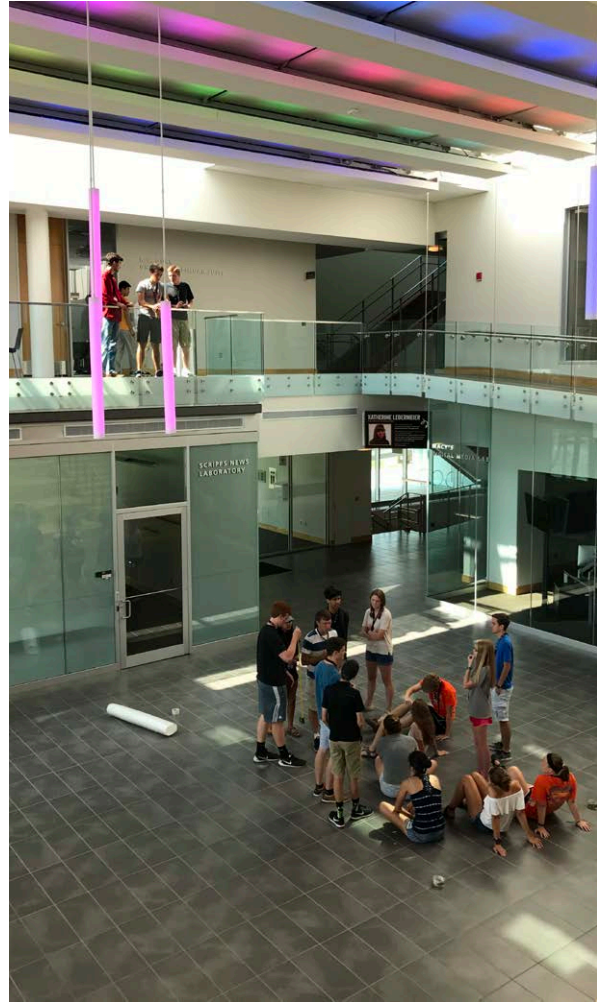
Scholars in **Bill Randall's** Focus Area delved into the roots of architecture as a way of creating a public space. They first considered Vitruvius, the Roman architect who wrote that the first house began as a gathering in the woods around a fire, around which people first began to deliberate. Drawing on these ideas and those of more current architects, scholars then analyzed and restructured their homes.

The project took their redesigns as the start of a much larger task: designing public housing. The project asked not just questions about plan and section, façade and structure, but also of the role of housing in communities and the relationship between government and developers. Scholars saw that competing values need not always conflict. In many situations, with deliberation, they may begin to harmonize and collaborate.

Northern Kentucky University

Bryan Orthel's class debated how comfort in buildings is related to building form, systems, and cultural expectations. The scholars explored the systems that heat and cool buildings, including how solar exposure, passive design, and electrically powered systems can be used in tandem. A trip to the Duke Energy Envision Center highlighted emerging technology used to create and manage energy-efficient cities.

Most directly, the class focused on creating comfort in the building environment through their own collaborative project. As a class, the scholars were challenged to construct a comfortable place for the class to meet during the final week of the program—using only plastic sheeting, packing tape, and box fans. The challenge required attention to structural issues, as well as understanding of basic passive cooling strategies. Their work culminated in erecting the structure and using it for a conversation about the lessons learned through the process.



GSP-NKU scholars explore spatial territoriality through physical exercises.

“This class helped me discover the value of other people’s ideas while allowing me to find new ways to work together.”

Evan Hughes
Logan County High School

“Astronomy required me to back up all the things I believed to be ‘facts.’ I now look at the world, and of course the universe, in a whole new way.”

Aiden Swearingen
Fern Creek High School

Morehead State University

Michael Feedback asked his scholars to consider “bad astronomy,” or common misconceptions and beliefs held by the public. Scholars researched topics such as the possibility of the moon landings being faked, traveling faster than the speed of light, and Earth being visited by alien spacecraft.

The class also researched many deep sky objects, such as planetary nebulae, open clusters, globular clusters, and spiral galaxies. The scholars then went out at night for field research and identified them personally, using their self-made PVC telescopes. With this data, scholars compared their personal observations with images collected by the Hubble Space Telescope.

Murray State University

Daniel King’s scholars focused on the solar eclipse of 2017. Guest speaker Bob Summerfield, of the non-profit organization Astronomy to Go, introduced the topic in a lecture that was opened to other classes within the GSP-Murray community. Bob recollected his personal experience in chasing eclipses and displayed his personal eclipse photographs. The Astronomy class then received an invitation to the Golden Pond Observatory, where the Western Kentucky Amateur Astronomers spoke about eclipse viewing safety and set up four telescopes that they used to perform solar observations. Scholars were also given solar eclipse glasses and generated a timeline of objects to observe and when to observe them during the eclipse so that they could take both their information and excitement back to their hometowns.

Northern Kentucky University

To understand and observe the sky, **Rico Tyler’s** scholars built their own telescopes, which they used during weekly observing sessions. Each Wednesday the NKU Haile Planetarium also ran sessions to help the scholars learn the seasonal stars and constellations.

The class also uncovered how science in general and astronomy in particular use evidence and argument to make and defend ideas. This theme inspired the opening-day discussions on the shape of the Earth and the scale of the universe. Experiments conducted by the scholars included making solar observations to measure the sun, using crater images to estimate planetary age, and using astronomy to predict the earliest and latest dates for Easter.



GSP-NKU scholars pose with a telescope provided by guest speaker Bob Summerfield as the class prepares to host a campus-wide “star party.”

biological & environmental issues

Morehead State University

In the first week of the program, **Greg Jacobelli's** scholars defined a few invasive species and explored society's role in exacerbating the spread of the species. After learning about an invasive fungus that decimated the American Chestnut, scholars were able to participate in artificial selection aimed at bringing back one of America's most important trees. Scholars treated 60 hybrid trees, grown over the past 15-20 years, with two strains of the original fungus that killed the Chestnut. The trees that show the best resistance will be cross bred in the hopes of creating a fungus-resistant tree that can be reintroduced into the environment and, over time, repopulate the Appalachians. Scholars will be able to see the results via email next summer.

Murray State University

Josh Woodward and his scholars tackled the interdisciplinary nature of biology and environmental science by examining the overlap with philosophy, geography, history, and art. To tackle human geography, for example, scholars gathered ant specimens from across the Murray State University campus and conducted behavioral experiments with those ants. Using E.O. Wilson's work on sociobiology as a guide, the class bridged their experiment with conversations about human migration and the interaction between previously separated cultural groups. The experience culminated in a trip to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This site demonstrated how the course of rivers helped shape cultural migrations and conflict throughout American history.

Northern Kentucky University

Greg Smith's scholars formed small teams to investigate an environmental challenge facing our world today, including global warming, genetically modified organisms, nutrition, and alternative energy sources. Each team researched and developed a presentation they gave to the class outlining the problem and offering practical solutions.

The class also looked at more immediate problems faced by the scholars, such as school safety and issues with commercial aviation. Scholars also learned how hunting can be a tool that wildlife biologists use to help control wildlife populations. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources gave scholars a chance to learn how to safely handle a gun.

"GSP creates an environment with people who want to learn and teachers who want to teach."

Danielle Moorman
Louisville Male High School

GSP-Murray scholars contemplate the sounds and sights at Murphy's Pond, a protected bald cypress swamp owned by Murray State University.



business, accounting, & entrepreneurship



Morehead State University

Led by **DeAnna Proctor**, scholars attending the **R. J. Corman Business, Accounting, and Entrepreneurship Focus Area** were introduced to the essential elements of any business endeavor. The Morehead State University Innovation Launchpad provided information on leadership and traits of entrepreneurs, as well as the process for start-up and financing for small business endeavors. As part of an online business simulation, scholar groups then designed, priced, and marketed their own company's backpack based on projected target markets. Upon completion of the simulation, groups presented their culminating reports that included pricing, marketing plans, and sales. Scholars also experimented with the stock market through a virtual environment that simulated stock trading online.

Murray State University

Melony Shemberger focused her class on social entrepreneurship as an approach to applying innovative, profitable methods to eradicate or minimize societal issues or problems. Scholars participated in a capstone project that allowed them to work as entrepreneurial teams and create a business plan on how to tackle an identified need or problem. Each team designed business plans on large, academic-style posters and presented their work to Murray State University administrators, community members and the GSP-Murray community. In addition to gaining presentation experience, the scholars' research was included in Murray State University's online institutional repository, Digital Commons, which will now be available for all digital readers to access.

"GSP has taught me that our intelligence gives us an advantage in the world, but we can only gain success and have an impact through strong leadership and a relentless drive to work hard."

Catherine Lewis
Scott County High School

Northern Kentucky University

With the generous support of the **Kentucky Society of CPAs**, **Scott Takacs** and his scholars were able to hear about a wide range of activities that accountants perform, as well as the value that a certified public accountant certification brings to a career. Scholars visited the United States Playing Card Company in Erlanger and Brown-Forman in Louisville, where they were able to see "behind the scenes" of the production of

popular products. These trips and speakers gave scholars unique perspectives on business from industry leaders.

Finally, scholars completed a stock-picking simulation and, on average, performed better than the S&P 500 in a similar time period. They also completed an interactive exercise on product development and discussed how satisfaction, customer sentiment, and reliability all contribute to a successful product.



communication & social theory

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Cher Reynolds's** class explored how communication can be the cause of a problem and also the solution to resolve it. Groups of scholars created hypothetical organizational crises for each other to address with written press statements. These statements were then delivered in front of their peers, who acted as journalists and asked difficult, probing questions.

On a trip to the Greenup Lock and Dam, scholars learned how communication is pertinent to the operation of Kentucky's navigable waterways and why vocal support of allocating money for improving infrastructure is critical to public safety. During a visit to R. J. Corman, scholars learned how the railroad company uses various communication practices to cultivate a culture of safety.

After analyzing a variety of print materials from public health campaigns, scholars developed their own posters for common health problems that Kentuckians may experience. Later, the class learned about the use of narrative and the significance of various camera angles in visual storytelling to then develop their own public service announcements. Scholars researched health topics, developed scripts, drew storyboards, shot footage, and then edited clips together to create polished final products.

Northern Kentucky University

The ability to communicate clearly and persuasively is among the hallmarks of being an effective community leader. Through **Tim Phelps's** class, scholars discovered that these skills must be honed like any other. Scholars practiced writing and speaking for a variety of audiences and purposes. They wrote technical directions to perfectly recreate Lego designs, faced a litany of impromptu and difficult questions from "reporters" as they filled in as the President's press secretary, and explored the struggles and potential benefits of mindful silence.

The class also learned about how personal definitions of morality often contribute to individuals' choices of which social groups to join or exclude. With this in mind, the scholars delved into their keystone project for the course, which was to design and implement a morality survey for the GSP-NKU community in order to study the trends in the responses. The scholars surveyed more than 150 volunteers before compiling and analyzing the qualitative data. Through this project, the class explored what drives individuals to align themselves with various social groups, why they so passionately identify with those groups, and whether those choices are positive or negative for society.

"I was told I would be pushed out of my comfort zone in this class before I even arrived. The fear of those words quickly turned into an appreciation for different views, morals, and ways of communicating."

Mauri Collins
Crittenden County High School



creative writing & literary studies

Morehead State University

Inspired by the Louisville Story Program collection of student writing *Our Shawnee*, **Phyllis Schlich** asked each of her scholars to write a memoir to communicate who they are and how their communities impact them. Early in the program, scholars attended a writing workshop by two local writers at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington. After this experience, scholars selected from their drafts a piece of writing they wished to revise and showcase in a printed collection. Using an online self-publishing resource, scholars published their own class anthology, *On the Rug*.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Ron Reed's** class honed their sense of character and persona by first using themselves as characters in the scenes they penned. Uncovering personal traits prompted them to write characters with depth. Scholars then met with the Philosophy Focus Area to discuss the importance of family, purpose, and storytelling. To sharpen their ability to perceive setting in their writings, the class visited the National Quilt Museum and Yeiser's Art Center collection at a local Paducah bank. Throughout the summer, the class also hosted evenings of poetry and prose reading to inspire fellow GSP-Murray writers and give them a forum for their own writing.

Northern Kentucky University

Frank Ward's class focused on writing both as an expansive personal activity and a collaborative process that improves through feedback and revision. The scholars worked with the Visual Arts Focus Area to generate a cross-curricular project, creating sensory-based poetry that was then developed into abstract paintings. In a second project, scholars developed individual short stories after locating inspirational artwork from visits to the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Contemporary Art Museum. Finally, scholars selected a representative page of what they considered their best work of the session and then created an illuminated manuscript of the work, using traditional inks and handmade quill pens cut by the scholars themselves.



GSP-Morehead scholars pose with their collection, *On the Rug*, comprised of memoirs written during the program.

“Because of this class,
I’ve been challenged again.
I feel creative again.
I am a writer again.”

Kalena Genesis
Atherton High School



cultural anthropology

Morehead State University

Ethan Morris encouraged his scholars to engage with culture by developing their senses of sight, sound, and taste. Before leaving their classroom to explore their surroundings, scholars read and discussed Jesse Stuart’s “Kentucky is My Land,” a poem which identifies Kentucky by its unique sights, sounds, and smells. In the first few weeks, scholars studied the different architectural styles exhibited in the nearby towns of Morehead, Owingsville, and Ashland. They sketched a variety of buildings; connected specific architectural styles to events and movements in American and world history; commented on the role of country roads, highways, and interstates; and developed narratives of each town’s growth.

After observing their surroundings, scholars listened to a variety of Southern musical genres, including bluegrass, country, blues, and jazz, and worked together to connect a region’s music to its ethnic, social, and economic characteristics. Following lessons on sound, scholars studied how common foods, such as bread, fat, cacao beans, and coffee beans, are prepared and consumed differently around the world. Scholars tried these foods and even organized a “Goettafest” in honor of a festival held annually in Northern Kentucky to celebrate the region’s German food heritage.



GSP-Morehead scholars examine a historic marker near the Owingsville courthouse.

“Everything exists for a reason; you just have to figure out why. This class gave me the mindset to look—really look—at the world and think about the ‘why.’”

Michael Spenlau
Simon Kenton High School

Northern Kentucky University

Carly Muetterties introduced her scholars to the theoretical lenses needed to engage in inter- and cross-cultural dialogues. The class discussed the concept of cosmopolitanism, thinking specifically about cultural relativism and the ways in which “truth” and “facts” are interpreted. They also addressed the ways stereotypes permeate our perspectives, consciously and unconsciously.

This transitioned into an inquiry concerning the role that one’s “home” has, both psychologically and sociologically speaking. Scholars then read portions of an ethnography looking at the impact of evictions on different communities in Milwaukee. This framed a conversation on Kentucky and the scholars’ concepts of home, specifically in rural areas.

The summer concluded with scholars reconsidering their initial reflections on their relationship with “home,” considering not only what it means for them as individuals, but also the ways in which they can be agents of change and create inclusive spaces for varied cultural groups.

dramatic expression



Murray State University

Taking on an ambitious project, **Jacqueline Hamilton's** class produced Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* for the GSP-Murray community. The three scholar directors cast the play and developed the costumes, props, soundtrack, and publicity. Every scholar had a distinct speaking role in the final production, so vocal coaching lessons included diction, expressiveness, and clarity.

During rehearsals, the class frequently stopped for mini-literary analysis lessons about Wilder's ideas and word choices. Five guest speakers inspired the class's production: a professional stage manager who now chairs the Murray State University theatre department, a high school drama coach who worked professionally in regional theatre, an actress and activist for theatrical arts in Western Kentucky, and a Kentucky native and New York City actor who has worked for the past 30 years on productions at Radio City Music Hall in New York City with the Rockettes.

Northern Kentucky University

At the beginning of the summer, **Emily Tate Frank's** scholars immediately dove into crafting their first solo piece: a lip-synced story told through song. Next, the class studied the creative process of how to produce a play and welcomed guest speakers who elaborated on the process of directing and design. With these skills, the class then collaborated to create and record scenes with the Film Studies Focus Area.

Scholars then turned their attention to Shakespeare and learned how to demystify the text and enjoy the experience. This culminated in a field trip to see *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. The class concluded their study of drama by devising and staging an original dramatic piece based on the GSP-NKU campus theme of "Fail Better."

Through these experiences, scholars ultimately explored the power of storytelling and how to stretch the boundaries of their own creative potential.



GSP-NKU scholars practice their daily physical and vocal warm-up exercises on stage.



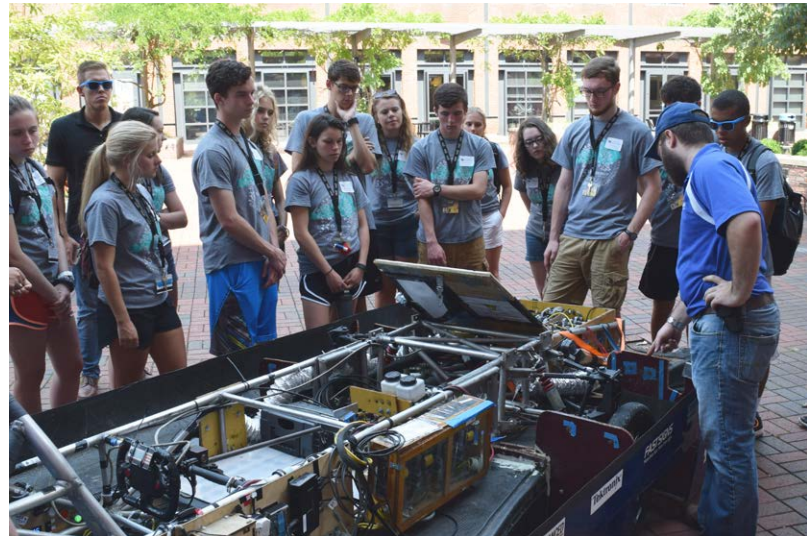
engineering

Northern Kentucky University

Hans Chapman and **Denise Owens** asked their scholars to investigate the role of engineering in today's society. The scholars engaged in various field trips and engineering activities designed to help examine those roles. They visited William Harsha Lake, where they participated in a real-world engineering design project with civil engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That was followed by a visit to Georgetown, where they toured Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK) and participated in an engineering problem-solving activity at Georgetown College, led by a team of engineers from TMMK. They also visited the Duke Energy Envision Center, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and Lexmark of Kentucky. To help them investigate higher education possibilities for studying engineering, scholars also visited the University of Louisville J.B. Speed School of Engineering and the University of Kentucky College of Engineering.

To further enhance their knowledge of engineering, scholars also heard from several guest speakers. Engineers, many of whom were former GSP scholars, shared their knowledge and experiences in chemical, civil, electrical, materials, mechanical, and structural engineering. The University of Kentucky Solar Car Team also visited the scholars to illustrate engineering possibilities with renewable energy.

Top, GSP-NKU scholars inspect the internal design of a solar-powered racing car at the University Of Kentucky College of Engineering; center, scholars participate in a class hands-on structure-building activity; bottom, scholars visit Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky.



Morehead State University

Scholars in **Jason Meenach's** class studied the art of storytelling through film. To learn about about the elements of film composition, the class visited a media arts studio at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, where a staff of industry professionals spent the day teaching scholars about many aspects of film production, including technology, collaboration, and special effects. Once the class had practiced the technical aspects of filmmaking, each scholar directed a music video, a public service announcement, and a “wildcard” project. Scholars ultimately learned that while technology is a helpful tool in filmmaking, the most important tool for telling a good story is their own imagination.



Craig Miller ('95), who is now the director of communications and creative arts at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, shows GSP-Morehead scholars how to operate a dolly and teleprompter.

“This experience was unlike anything I have ever done, in that I had to be creative, adaptable, and learn new things—all while having fun.”

Chris Kemper
Saint Xavier High School

Northern Kentucky University

Ian Frank's scholars explored the idea that every movie is a remix. They learned that films draw from other films, paintings, music, books, and myths for inspiration and content. The class took apart films from both cultural and technical standpoints to figure out how they tell a compelling story. Then, scholars recreated iconic moments from film history shot by shot to see the process through the original filmmaker's eyes. Through this exercise, scholars came to understand the technical

demands of working with cameras, actors, and software.

Next, Film Studies scholars used their skills to collaborate with the Dramatic Expression Focus Area. Scholars from both classes worked on text from Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and then watched both a film adaptation of the play as well as a live performance at Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. This led to groups creating short films based on the same text from the play *Love and Information*.

forensic science

Morehead State University

In **Claire Polston's** class, scholars explored many types of evidence that aid investigators in processing crime scenes. Scholars fingerprinted, examined microscopic components of hair, analyzed soil from their hometowns, and used biometric data to translate handprints to facial structures. Teams used these skills to find a conclusion to a fictitious crime scene by the end of the summer.

Finally, scholars also explored entomology and body decay by studying body farms used for anthropological research. To create their own version of a body farm, the class simulated decomposition using deceased chickens. After designing varying experimental scenarios, scholars observed how conditions affect the decay of chicken bodies and the development of insects on the bodies. Through research, scholars formed conclusions about the decay of human bodies post-death.

Murray State University

During the first half of the summer, **Michael Starling's** scholars practiced several forensic techniques. They examined blood spatter projections from a blunt weapon, analyzed finger and lip prints of themselves and other scholars, and practiced identifying prints by categorizing ridge characteristics and comparing them to a database created by the scholars. In the second half of the summer, scholars read excerpts from *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers*, which discussed how cadavers are used in different areas of science. For a hands-on understanding of what they learned from the book, the class practiced the autopsy process using fetal pigs.

Northern Kentucky University

Jim Seaver's class spent the summer engaging in an interdisciplinary examination of the problem of terrorism. Scholars began by studying the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and how they were investigated in the aftermath, which provided them the opportunity to speak with the vice-chairman of the 9/11 Commission. Next, scholars explored the psychology of radicalization and why some people engage in ideologically motivated acts of violence by examining case studies of the Weather Underground and the Oklahoma City bombing.

Afterward, scholars examined counterterrorism and met with guest speakers from the FBI, the Secret Service, the Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center, and the Cincinnati Fire Department's bomb squad. They also traveled to the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport to speak with officials from the TSA and U.S. Customs & Border Protection.

Left, GSP-Murray scholars work to match unidentified thumbprints to those of a suspect; center, a GSP-NKU scholar creates a footwear impression to practice collecting forensic evidence at a crime scene; right, GSP-Morehead scholars experiment with factors that affect blood spatter patterns.



Morehead State University

Jamie Hester asked her scholars to consider the circumstances of our current healthcare landscape. We live in an age of medical wonders—transplants, gene therapy, life saving drugs, and preventative strategies—but the healthcare system remains expensive, inefficient, and inequitable. To grasp the state of healthcare, scholars dove into the full text of the Affordable Care Act. The class then set out to offer suggestions or even create an alternative plan to confront the problems with our current healthcare system that scholars identified.

Along the way, scholars explored healthcare skills. They learned how to control stress through meditation and yoga, observed cadaver research and artificial heart prototypes, practiced suturing, and learned about laparoscopic procedures.

Murray State University

Cindy Brainard led her scholars on an exploration of the brain. The class read *Mapping the Mind* by Rita Carter, which detailed how brain damage and malfunctions can influence behavior and quality of life. Scholars presented different brain anomalies to the class and led discussions about the merits and detriments of possible treatment options. With this information, each class member created a model of the different anatomical parts of the brain and related disease syndromes to share with the GSP-Murray community.

The class also visited Vanderbilt Medical School and spoke with admissions counselors about the program at the university. They spent an afternoon in the simulation lab performing several different medical procedures on dummy patients. The Murray Calloway County hospital also hosted the scholars for an afternoon in the areas of radiology, surgery, and emergency care.

Northern Kentucky University

Marina Kirtland and her scholars contemplated how our daily lives shape our healthcare. The class began by getting a better understanding of how policy impacts access and availability of healthcare, along with standard of living. On a trip to Frankfort, scholars discussed health policy with two senators who serve on the Health and Welfare Committee.

Scholars then moved into a discussion of population health and how they can impact the health of their communities through public health approaches. After a variety of guest speakers and activities, the class engaged in a United Nations role-playing exercise to solve food insecurity issues.



GSP-Murray scholars practice CPR in a simulation lab at Vanderbilt University.

historical analysis

“The amount I have learned in this class about America, and what it really is, has been one of the most thought-provoking experiences in my life.”

Abi Thout
duPont Manual High School

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Steve Easley’s** Focus Area investigated the nature of protest and its influence throughout history. In particular, scholars explored the women’s suffrage movement, examined the role of music in the Vietnam War protests, and learned about the ongoing fight for civil rights through a visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. At the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, scholars saw firsthand the importance of protest as seen through Ali’s life as a social activist. Scholars also examined the life of Kentucky native Anne Braden, who dedicated her life to protesting for the rights of various disenfranchised groups.

In addition to examining protest, scholars also discussed the study of history, or historiography, and the overall lack of historical knowledge that is prevalent in our society today. Scholars discussed topics including how we should remember Christopher Columbus, whether or not the Kentucky State Capitol should retain its statue of Jefferson Davis, and how historical figures, ranging from John Brown to Abraham Lincoln, are portrayed in history textbooks.

Murray State University

An in-depth exploration of the struggle for civil rights in the 20th century framed **Kyle Jones’s** class. Making use of multi-dimensional conceptual lenses allowed the scholars to approach well-known events of the Civil Rights Movements from fresh perspectives. The goal was to unearth how social constructions arrive in the collective imagination.

In pursuit of this goal, scholars were asked to deconstruct the concept of American Consciousness in a way that made space for empathetic readings of these well-known moments and figures from the movement. Scholars, by way of Socratic seminars, critical readings, and personal reflections on the class’s blog, concluded that American identities are multifaceted and anything but static. A highlight of the course was a visit to Cairo, Illinois, where racial strife and economic downturns coincided to tell a version of the American story that is often overlooked.

A group of GSP-NKU scholars practice their boxing moves in the interactive boxing ring at the Muhammad Ali Center.



international relations



Morehead State University

Scholars in **Tyler Murphy's** class examined the evolution of the modern state system and analyzed various theories explaining how states interact, compete, and cooperate in the international system.

To better understand these concepts, scholars created their own nation-state and combined them to form their own unique international system. Within this global framework, scholars worked collaboratively to address challenges, conflicts, and opportunities that emerged in their community. Scholars built alliances, created international treaties, negotiated security arrangements, and responded to simulated intelligence briefings updating them on the global situation in real time.

Scholars applied the concepts they learned as leaders of their own nation-states to examine shifts in political and economic power in today's world and ways in which they can take action to make a global impact.



GSP-Morehead scholars negotiate naval placements on the map of their "GSPlanet" to simulate international systems, theories, and relations.

Murray State University

Ogechi Anyanwu's scholars studied multinational corporations (MNCs) as non-state influential actors in international relations. Throughout the program, scholars learned about the various ways that MNCs conduct their businesses and debated the two main competing models for regulating their activities in Africa. Each scholar conducted research on an MNC operating in a particular African country and presented a poster that highlighted the company's success or failure in meeting its corporate social responsibility. Scholars also presented a group project that analyzed the relationship between MNCs operating in Africa and foreign interventions by Britain, France, China, the United States, and Russia.

"This class ignited my thirst for learning."

Cate Prather

Elizabethtown High School

journalism & mass media

Morehead State University

Michael Breeding focused his class on points of view and creativity. Scholars produced a television comedy segment to experience the world of television and video in a fun way. They wrote, produced, directed, and filmed the show, which contained all the elements of an actual television segment: hosts, field reporters, skits, graphics, music, voice-overs, and make-up.

The scholars heard from several guest speakers, including *Lexington Herald-Leader* publisher Rufus Friday, editor Peter Baniak, and columnist Tom Eblen. They also toured the facilities of Kentucky Educational Television (KET), where they met KET founder O. Leonard Press and his wife Lillian Press, the first executive director of the Governor's Scholar Program.



Murray State University

Bella Ezumah's class focused on community or civic journalism, exploring the interests of micro-community (GSP-Murray) and macro-community (Western Kentucky and some parts of Tennessee). Scholars then gathered information on local area priorities, concerns, and perspectives on the issues of healthcare and agriculture. They visited a local health center to investigate possible impact of the latest healthcare bill proposal and how subsequent decisions on the issue might impact the local community. In the area of agriculture and local economy, scholars spent an afternoon at a fruit and vegetable stand in Murray with a local farmer.

As a study of the micro-community of GSP, the class captured the summer experience in a 36-page commemorative newspaper—a project that offered practice in interviewing, news gathering, writing, editing, designing, production, and dissemination.

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **James Kenney's** class explored the various areas of mass media, including television, newspapers, and online news. They wrote a profile on a fellow scholar or faculty/staff member, photographed a Florence Freedom baseball game, documented the Kenton County Fair, and covered a multicultural event at the Cincinnati Zoo. They also learned how to edit images using Adobe Bridge and Photoshop.

To supplement class discussion, scholars visited WCPO Channel 9 in Cincinnati to see how the station combines traditional broadcast and online technologies to produce the news. They also participated in the station's morning news meeting focused on an exclusive interview with Vice President Mike Pence that was airing later that day. Scholars later visited the Cincinnati Enquirer, where they took a tour of the newsroom and spoke with a city hall reporter and a photojournalist.

modes of mathematical thinking



Morehead State University

Austin Starks's scholars worked to see how statistical trends develop. Through several documentaries, the class was able to see how data can be used to tell a story. Scholars then developed a survey to administer to the GSP-Morehead community to look into the minds of the scholars and assess attitudes and interests that changed over the course of the program. They also noted how geography played a role in the community's responses.

Math's relationship to physics was also addressed as scholars visited the Ronald G. Eaglin Space Science Center. Scholars learned about Morehead State University's upcoming satellite launch and the math needed to correctly navigate the satellite through space.

Murray State University

Jason Dooley's Focus Area explored the edges of probability in a course based on Nassim Taleb's book *Black Swan*. The scholars looked at the unlikely outcomes of last year's Super Bowl, World Series, and NBA Finals and the shocking U.S. Presidential election as examples of extremely unlikely events and their impacts. They also explored the applications of probability and statistics to various games of skill and chance.

Providing the scholars with different perspectives on math and its uses were guest speakers including Dr. Elizabeth Donovan, a math professor at Murray State University; former scholar Darren Tinker, a mechanical engineer working with NASA; and Kentucky native Aaron Clark, a professional poker player.



Opposite page, GSP-NKU scholars photograph a Florence Freedom baseball game during a field trip to the ballpark; above, GSP-Morehead scholars use marshmallows and toothpicks to explore why geometry is important when designing structures.

Emily Davis

Union County High School

"In this class we worked with numbers that have meaning—numbers manifested by life experiences. It gave a personal element to math."

music theory & performance

Morehead State University

Chris Wheeler's Focus Area explored the human element of teaching, performing, and enjoying music. Scholars researched the evolution of musical notation over history, hearing from musicologists from the University of Kentucky and creating their own compositions with medieval chant notation. The class also evaluated the musical culture of Kentucky through interviews and self-reflection on musical tastes and habits. A visit to the Stephen Foster Story in Bardstown helped to understand why perspectives of Kentucky's music culture are so limited to folk and bluegrass music.

Class projects included the formation of an ensemble comprised of the entire class, resulting in original and arranged compositions recorded as a CD. They embraced the simplicity in playing songs of only four chords and performed their compositions at a local coffee shop.

Murray State University

Through examination of program music, opera, and film score, **Tana Field's** class considered the means by which music tells or enhances the emotional and visual aspects of a story. Scholars explored leitmotif, underscoring, empathetic sound, and the value of silence.

To try their hand at telling a larger story, scholars crafted an original musical work. Focusing on their own musical strengths and interests, scholars formed a storyline and script, arranged music for all instruments in the class, staged the work, and performed during the program's final week. Scholars delved into the mechanics of music, examining concepts such as transposition, chord progression, and modulation. In preparation for the final performance, scholars visited a large regional theatre and explored the financial and production challenges of presenting a staged work to the public.



GSP-Morehead scholars record their CD comprised of original works written during the summer.

Morehead State University

Will Garcia asked scholars to expand their minds inward and their horizons outward. They studied Eastern philosophies such as Taoism and Zen Buddhism.

Moving outside the typical classroom, scholars explored the Chinese philosophy of Taoism through meditation, mindfulness, and hiking in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. The class was able to visit the Drepung Gomang Center for Engaging Compassion, where they learned from a monk and explored the art of meditation and mindfulness. This was juxtaposed with a teaching from a Sister of Mercy, which gave scholars the ability to find similarities of mindfulness and prayer in the two seemingly different disciplines. The class used this foundation of mindfulness to then explore their place in the universe through the study of metaphysics.



GSP-NKU scholars pose with an installation at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center while studying whether art is a boundless or inexhaustible concept.

“There are not many places that teach you how to think. We went above and beyond this and learned to love to think.”

Dalton McCown

June Buchanan High School

Murray State University

Beginning with a study of Socrates, **John Wilcox’s** scholars reflected on the concept of moral virtue in the context of storytelling. The class joined with the Creative Writing & Literary Studies Focus Area to consider a theory of narrative identity, the idea that one of the main ways that each person makes sense of their life is to construct an inner personal narrative that connects their past with their intended future.

The collaboration with Creative Writing & Literary Studies included a field trip to an abandoned and restored chapel at Land Between the Lakes. In small groups, scholars discussed Emily Esfahani Smith’s book *The Power of Meaning: Crafting a Life that Matters* and the short story “Shiloh” by Kentucky author Bobbie Ann Mason. These discussions led to other issues such as the existence of free will and the soul.

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Lisa Hicks’s** class worked with the concept of the limitless, boundless, or inexhaustible. The class contemplated several topics—art, friendship, space, infinity, and excellence—that carry with them the idea of having no upper limit. To explore the application of these ideas, scholars screened and discussed several philosophically rich films, such as *Run, Lola, Run* and *The History Boys*, and visited a local art museum and gallery. Scholars connected these activities to the course’s overarching theme of the boundless. The films sparked discussion on the limitless range of events that might result from different initiating actions and choices, and the museum and gallery trips provided material for discussing the conceptual connection between knowing a work of art and knowing a person. They ultimately wondered: is this concept of “knowing” inexhaustible?

physical science

Morehead State University

John Clark's Focus Area scholars designed investigations of several phenomena. To begin, the class researched the chemical and physical properties of concrete. Scholars built their own boats from unique concrete recipes in order to have a functional vessel. In addition, scholars investigated several chemical properties of dyes and inks to determine the best pen for a practical lab notebook.

During their studies, scholars visited a functional distillery and discussed science in the field and potential college and career options. They also investigated the nature of food science, which included a tour of a local bakery and discussions with the owner on the importance and viability of the food science industry.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Harsh Upadhyay's** class delved into the world of Rube Goldberg inventions—machines that use a chain reaction to accomplish a simple task in a complicated manner. The class first read Rube Goldberg's biography and then studied Goldberg's cartoons to define what characteristics about a chain reaction constitute a Rube Goldberg invention. Scholars then began creating one- to two-step Lego chain reactions. This process got comprehensively more complicated with additional scholar-generated directions. By the end of the program, scholars demonstrated a Rube Goldberg invention with more than 20 chain reactions involving over 1,000 Lego pieces and more than 200 wooden planks.

GSP-Murray scholars pose with their Rube Goldberg machine, which uses a series of chain reactions to complete a simple task.



Morehead State University

Kim Reeder's class studied the U.S. Constitution and identified ways in which the ideals found in the Constitution are sometimes difficult to square with their practical application. In particular, scholars investigated how issues of race, gender, and socioeconomic status may create barriers to constitutional protections.

Scholars read portions of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* to understand the criminal justice system and one lawyer's view of the impact of race and socioeconomic status on the fairness of that system. To complement the reading, the class attended jury selection for a trial in Franklin County. Linking to capital punishment issues discussed in *Just Mercy*, scholars talked with Kentucky Circuit Court Judge Phillip Shepherd, who enjoined Kentucky executions in 2010.

Murray State University

John Powell's class dove into America's healthcare crisis. The resulting policy analysis, "Hope for Healthcare," was shared with Kentucky State Senators Ralph Alvarado and Morgan McGarvey, who spoke with scholars in Frankfort, and with U.S. Senator Rand Paul, whose state communications director provided them with an inside view of the political processes that affected the possibilities for change. Each scholar started by examining their own health care situation and how it has been affected by the Affordable Care Act. Working with Openfields, a professional consulting firm, they developed a plan to use their unique social situation to voice concerns and suggest possible solutions to healthcare problems in Kentucky. To situate their findings in the national context, scholars also followed developments in the U.S. Senate, where the healthcare debate dominated proceedings in June and July.

Northern Kentucky University

Scholars in **Frank Russell's** class applied political philosophy to three particular issues: justice in health care, the Second Amendment, and American leadership and international justice. They began with a discussion of definitions of justice, and the creation of the just state, in Plato's Republic, and proceeded to apply the concept of justice in law and policy.

Throughout the summer, scholars researched information for formulating healthcare policy, including

demographics, economic constraints, and domestic and foreign models. They also discussed the relationship between civilian and soldier, with emphasis on historical examples in democracies and republics. Finally, scholars viewed and discussed *Propaganda*, a North Korean critique of Western domestic and foreign politics. Using this film as a starting point, scholars reflected on the challenges faced by America in formulating policies that accommodate both justice and interests.

"We didn't argue about who was correct, Democrats or Republicans; we talked about how we could come up with solutions that both parties could support."

Savannah Brady
Highlands High School



psychology & behavioral studies

Morehead State University

Jay Crocker focused his class on the concept of loneliness and isolation and its effects on the human experience. The scholars worked to understand the powerful and important impact that a sense of community, or the lack thereof, has on humans and their existence together. In doing so, they visited the Child Advocacy Center of Lexington, where they met with the executive director to discuss the system that has been created to help victims of child abuse.

Shortly thereafter, the class visited Eastern State Hospital, where they met with a forensic psychologist, a physician's assistant, and a community advocate for mental health awareness. **Irene Bozio's** scholars joined Crocker and his class on their visit to study the development of the brain and how chemical imbalances cause mental illness. They learned about the quality of care given to vulnerable individuals requiring medication and behavior therapy.

Bozio's scholars then moved to Morehead State University's Neuroscience Psychology lab to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of recreational drugs on the brain and how they can decrease the brain's ability to function. They measured reactions of rats to provide insight into how the human brain would be affected when taking the same drugs.

Murray State University

Raven Webster introduced her scholars to the field of neuroplasticity and the controversy surrounding it. Through reading *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge, scholars discovered the history of the field and how the intersection of politics, economics, and scientific research principles affects progress and outcomes. Scholars read and discussed case studies related to particular neurological challenges and how the principles of plasticity were applied with positive results.

Additionally, scholars explored stages of neurological development, discovered times of life when the brain is most plastic and changeable, and applied their knowledge to questions regarding our educational system and how formalized learning is organized in our society. Scholars were also interested in exploring how scientific studies are conducted, funded, and approved, as well as what ethical questions and concerns must be considered in the name of research progress.

"Every day, I left this class wanting to continue our discussions and research."

Ella Jensen
Henry Clay High School

Northern Kentucky University

Jodi Treadway centered her class on cultural psychology and how culture shapes our psychological drives, impulses, and perceptions. Scholars first learned about the different types of psychological bias and how they disrupt our ability to think logically and understand other people's perspectives. Scholars were then introduced to the individualism/collectivism spectrum, learning how different cultures focus on either the individual or the group, and what that focus means for identity, attitudes, and beliefs. Using the book *Clash!: How to Thrive in a Multicultural World* as a guide, scholars used their new knowledge to investigate practical questions of race, gender, morality, social class, and culture clash, both in the U.S. and internationally.

Scholars then examined an intracultural clash in their own backyard, investigating the Take Back Cheapside campaign. During a walking tour of downtown Lexington, scholars learned how statues, buildings, and other landscape features convey cultural meanings that are far deeper than they may appear on the surface.

spanish language & culture



Morehead State University

Clint Hendrix's scholars read Yuri Herrera's lyrical novella *Signs Preceding the End of the World*, a recently translated story set in the borderland about a young woman who travels north to bring her brother home to Mexico. Through short stories by Pulitzer Prize-winner Junot Díaz and documentaries, scholars also learned about the difficult immigration history of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Scholars improved their cultural competency through the analysis of Hispanic-American street artists and muralists. Their culminating art project echoed Los Angeles artist Ramiro Gómez's Domestic Disturbance series, in which he recast iconic Hispanic masters through a modern artistic vision. After a visit to the Cincinnati Art Museum, scholars were encouraged to contrast the more institutionalized Hispanic art of private spaces to public art's impact on the urban landscape during a walking mural tour of Lexington.

Murray State University

Scholars in **Jeff O'Field's** Focus Area imagined what it would be like to become bilingual and then mapped how to reach their own language learning goals. The class read complementary novels in order to form literary ongoing salons, which explored various themes through the lens of Caribbean identity and history. They also visited the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville, where they viewed *La Camioneta* and spoke with the director of the documentary, discussing the challenges of the film-making process in diverse communities.

To understand how bilingualism positively benefits individuals and communities, scholars volunteered with a local organization in Murray and visited regional community centers. While learning about the communities served by these organizations, scholars met entrepreneurs, educators, and other community leaders who challenged them to use their skills and interests to enrich their own communities at home.

visual arts



Morehead State University

Deeno Golding's class explored visual problem solving through the use of illustration. Visually translating what is seen, spoken, and written, scholars flexed the ability to think creatively, research solutions, and resolve problems.

To test their illustrating skills, scholars were given a sheet of paper with only small circles printed on it. They were then asked to execute as many thumbnail sketches that used the circles as a foundation or starting point. After this introductory exercise, scholars worked on their themed illustration projects using various traditional and nontraditional skills and techniques.

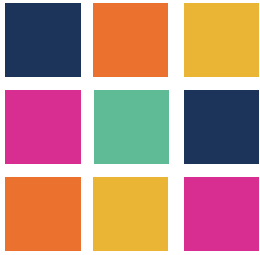
Northern Kentucky University

With GSP-NKU's summer theme being "Fail Better," scholars in **Matt Curless's** class were encouraged to challenge their philosophical views on what they considered to be "good art" and where the difference lies between an "art" and a "craft." Scholars also exercised their personal artistic skills through multiple class projects. They created black and white portraits on gray paper, collaborated with the Creative Writing & Literary Studies Focus Area to produce visual interpretations of

A GSP-NKU scholar creates a value-based self portrait using a grid system.



poems written in class, and combined photography with fine arts to create a scratchboard etching from a photo they had shot around campus. All of the class's pieces were put on display for the GSP-NKU community during the final week of the program.



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 2017.

Unreal

Northern Kentucky University

What is the nature of reality? **Jodi Treadway's** class considered many facets of this question, starting with "objective" reality, which they realized was not so objective. Scholars then studied the science of perception and how we perceive reality. This included discussions of how perception can be altered by sensory disruptions, beliefs, cultural experiences, and other factors.

The class also explored the future of reality, with an emphasis on humanity's ever-increasing ability to alter our realities through technology. Scholars listened to synthetic music, considered the blending of reality and fiction through photographic manipulations, and looked at the future of humans through the lenses of bio-engineering and genetic manipulation. The class got experience with the newest virtual reality technology and considered the implications of such synthetic worlds becoming more "real" than the one around us.

Fiddler on the Roof

Murray State University

Tana Field's class explored the concept of tradition, examining questions such as: What is tradition? Should tradition be observed without question? What common traditions might we share as Kentuckians?

Through activities such as baking traditional recipes, folk dancing, quilting, and storytelling, scholars were engaged with Kentucky's heritage. Scholars also visited an 1850's farm to consider the region's traditional past, as well as sample both indigenous and classical music. Additionally, scholars explored long-standing traditions of other cultures through discussions of study abroad opportunities and participation in activities such as taekwon do and belly dancing.

Finally, scholars examined the role of innovation in challenging tradition, specifically considering the music and broadcasting fields and developments that have taken place in the last century.

Scrubbing Bubbles

Morehead State University

After exploring the reasons why we work and the stereotypes that exist in the work we do, **Greg Jacobelli** introduced his scholars to the growing skills gap and explored the line between blue-collar and white-collar jobs. They discussed the shrinking manufacturing sector in the U.S. and trends in the job market. Scholars were then given limited materials and asked to imagine, design, and build something that would be useful

and possibly marketable. They decided on designing pontoons that could be easily built and used by college students on Morehead State University's Eagle Lake. The class split into groups and learned the basics of common construction tools. After a successful test on the lake, scholars disassembled their pontoons and built benches, book-sharing houses, and cornhole sets and donated them to the Morehead community.

Be an Adventure

Northern Kentucky University

Inspired by Tori Murden McClure's convocation and book, *A Pearl in the Storm*, **Steve Easley's** scholars asked themselves: What does it mean to be an adventure?

The class debated the difference between having adventures and being an adventure. Through book club-style discussions, scholars examined McClure's life and looked for ways to apply the lessons she learned to their own lives. To celebrate the Fourth of July, scholars researched and presented arguments attempting to determine the greatest adventurer in American history. Scholars expressed their adventurous curiosity through a trip to Jungle Jim's International Food Market, where they sampled such treats as grasshoppers, pickled duck eggs, and dried fish. To appreciate an urban adventure, scholars participated in an Amazing Race-inspired scavenger hunt through downtown Cincinnati using only a printed map as a guide.

Topics related to adventure including fear, persistence, and motivation were prevalent themes throughout the summer. In the final week, scholars were challenged to create a bucket list of adventures they plan to have at some point during their lives, with the hope that their list would serve as their reminder going forward to always strive to be an adventure.



Guardians of Knowledge

Murray State University

What should a library look like 20 years from now? That was the overarching question **Melody Shemberger** asked her scholars. The class focused on libraries: academic, public, and presidential. Scholars explored solutions to the challenges that libraries face today and considered problems that these institutions will encounter in the future. They worked in groups to research and envision what a library would be like years from now and designed their proposed libraries on large, academic-style posters that were presented to Murray State University administrators, community members, and the GSP-Murray community.

The class also focused on presidential libraries. Scholars researched former U.S. President Barack Obama's life and administration for ideas on exhibits, displays, and features to be included in the upcoming Barack Obama Presidential Library. Their presentations were sent to the Obama library for consideration.

Outside of the classroom, scholars volunteered in two separate activities at the Calloway County Public Library. First, they helped the Friends of the Library set up the summer book sale. Second, they were a part of the Bluegrass Book Buddies Read-In effort to promote reading to others.

*To better appreciate the 95 days Tori Murden McClure spent rowing across the Atlantic Ocean, GSP-NKU scholars in **Steve Easley's** General Studies had their own (albeit shorter) rowing adventure at Sharon Woods Lake in Cincinnati.*



SCHOLAR

EXPERIENCE

SURVEY

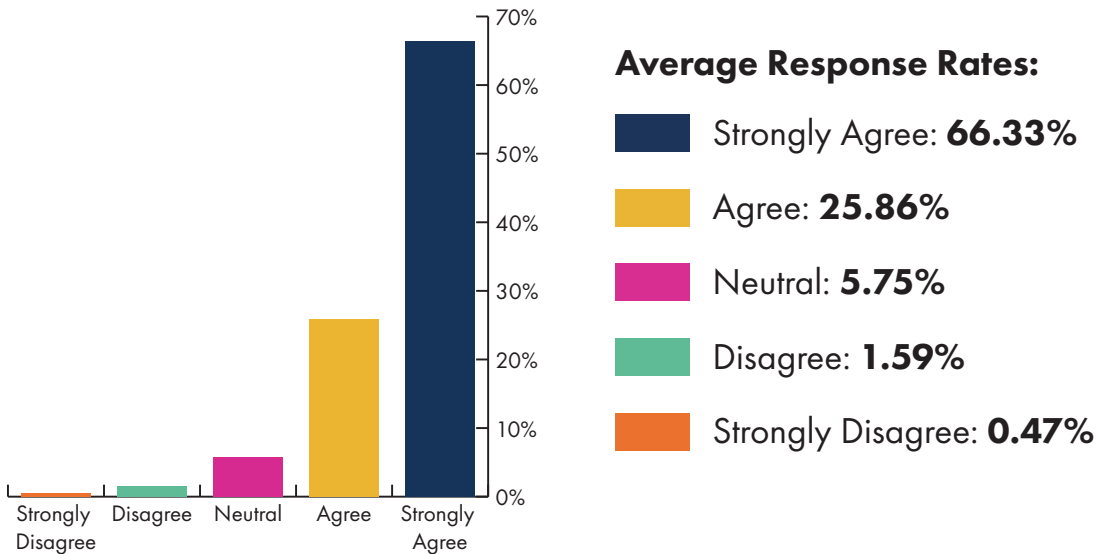
Each summer, before leaving their respective campuses, all Governor’s Scholars are asked to complete a Scholar Experience Survey consisting of approximately thirty questions pertaining to all aspects of life at GSP. Program staff use the survey results to help gauge the success of the summer’s activities, 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.

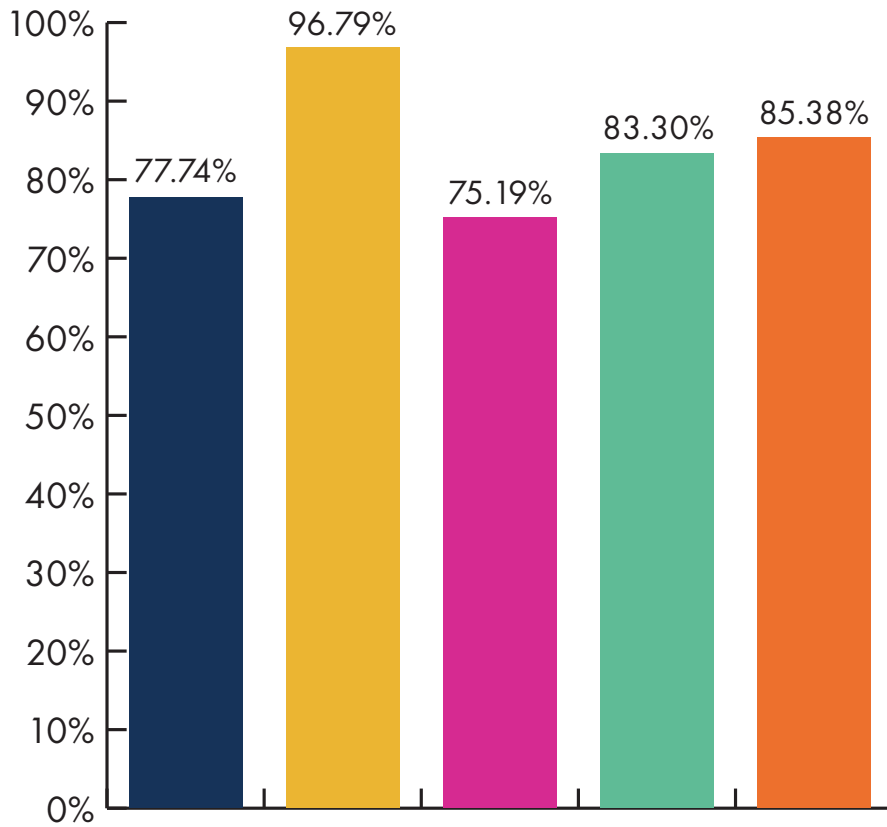
The following is a sample of results from the 2017 Scholar Experience Survey, organized by areas of emphasis within the Program. For a complete list of the survey questions and detailed results, please see the GSP website at www.gsp.ky.gov.

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” 92.19% of the time. In comparison, “neutral” responses made up

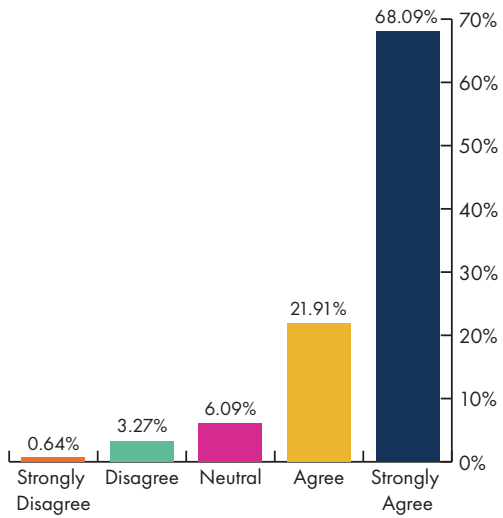
5.75% of the total. Scholars very rarely reacted negatively to the survey prompts, choosing “disagree” only 1.59% of the time and “strongly disagree” in only 0.47% of responses. No question received a negative response rate above 4.91%.





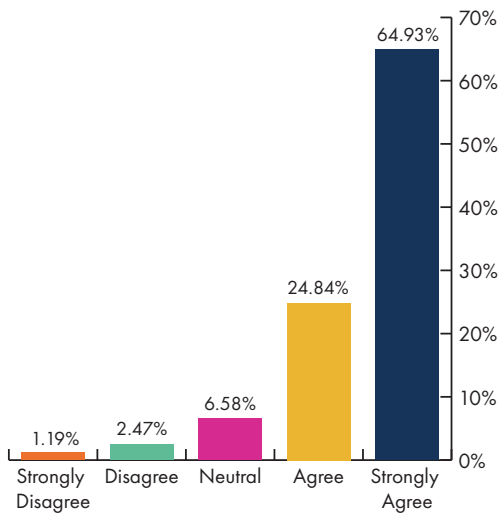
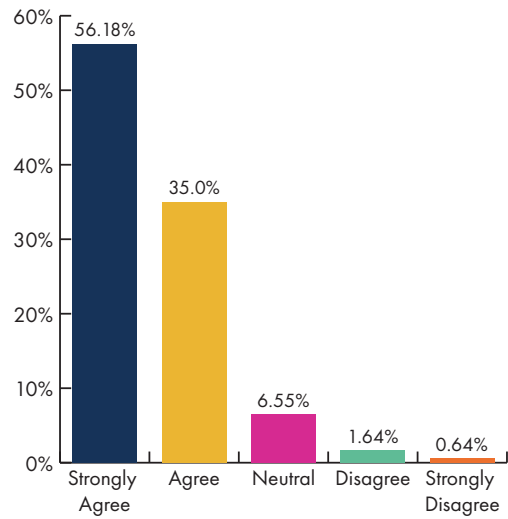
"My participation in the Governor's Scholars Program has strengthened my..."

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

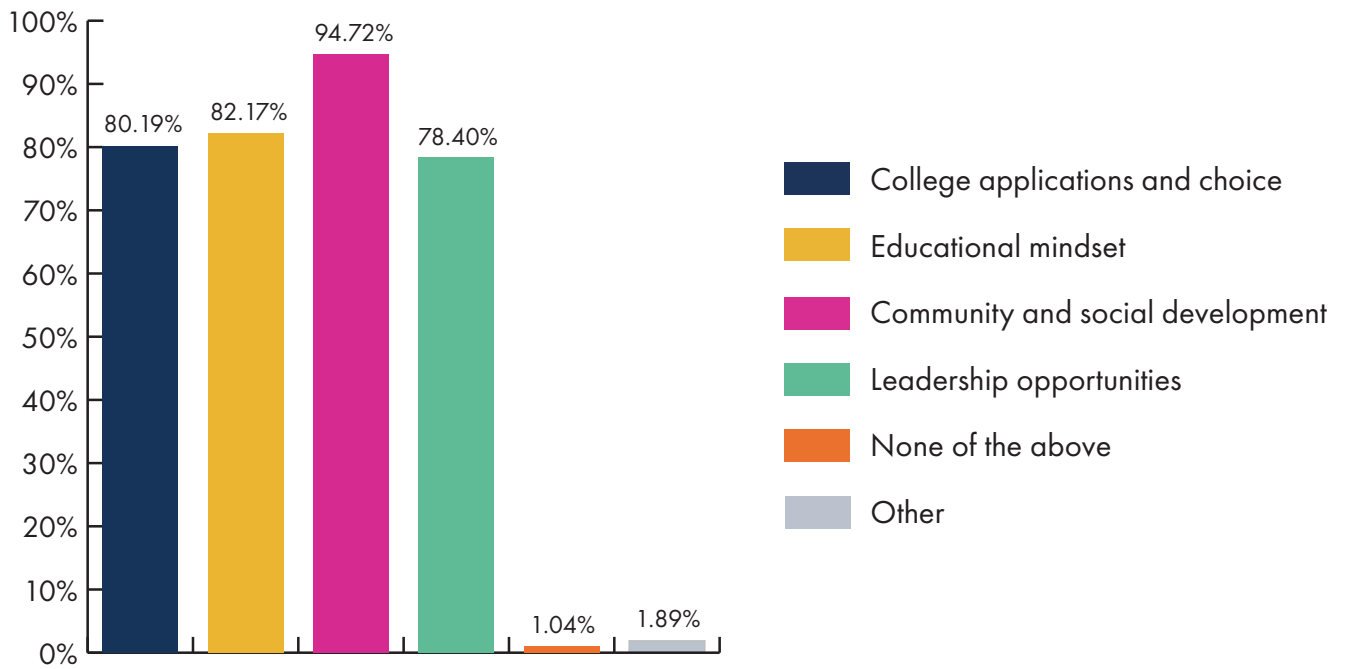


“My **Focus Area** was a positive learning experience.”

“GSP provided me with **meaningful classroom experiences.**”

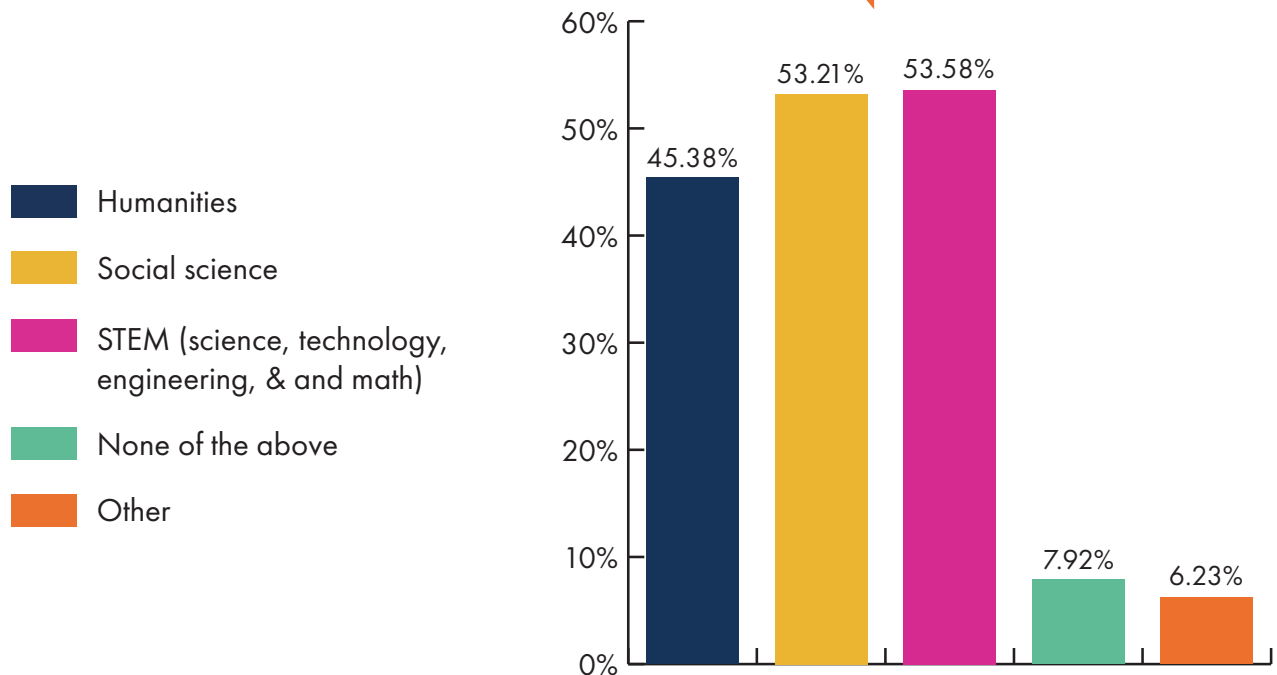


“My **General Studies** was a positive learning experience.”



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

**"GSP sparked a new,
different, or renewed
interest** in one or more of the
following fields of study."



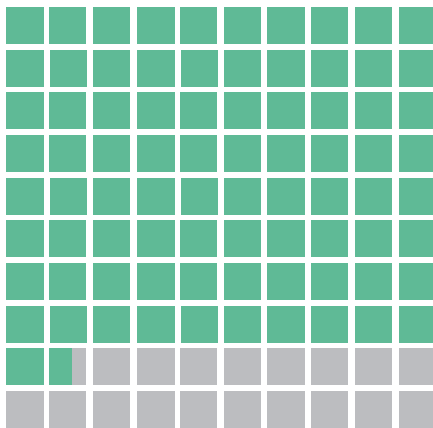
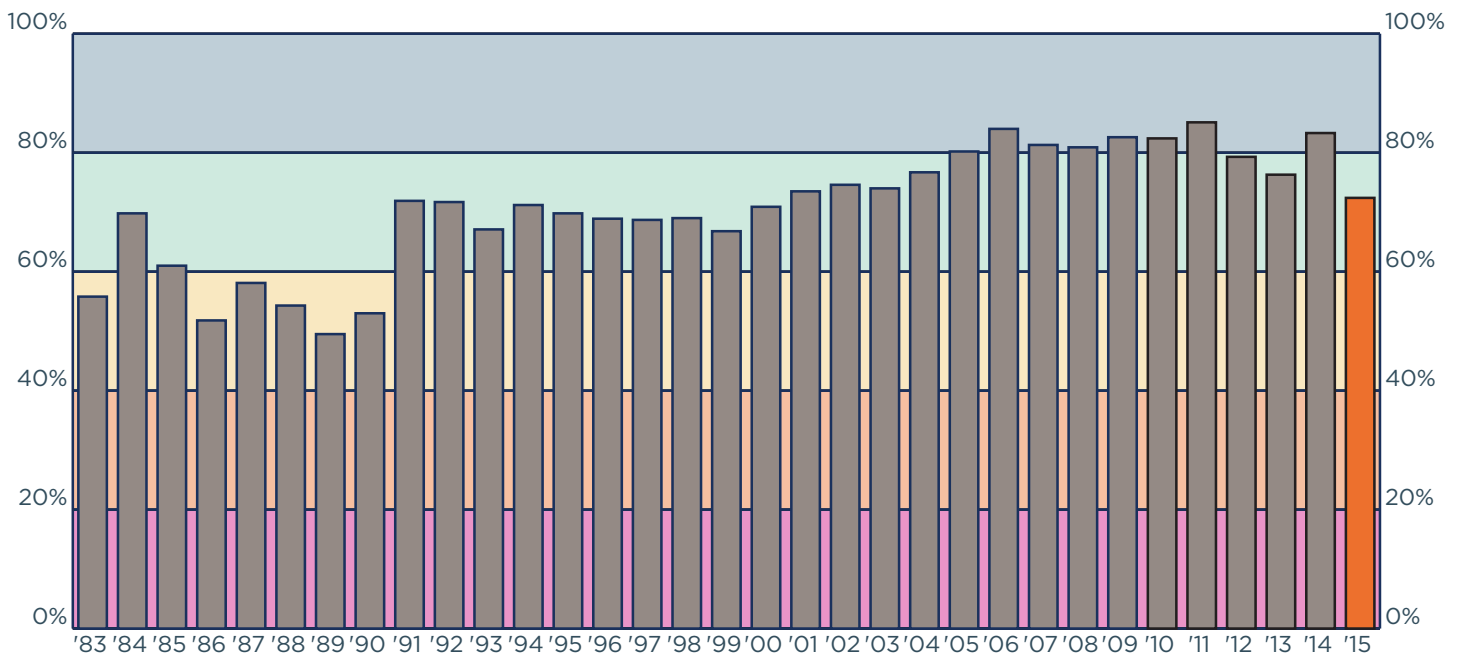


SCHOLAR IN-STATE DATA

College Enrollment

With the help of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, 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 2015 scholars, the most recent year for which data is available, 72.4% enrolled at a Kentucky college or university in the fall of 2016.



Permanent Residence

As of September 2017, 29,701 students have completed the Governor's Scholars Program. The Program currently has valid contact information on file for 23,888 living alumni.

Of those, 19,932, or 81.66%, have a permanent address within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



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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, contact:

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By partnering with the GSP Foundation, Kentucky businesses and organizations provide not only the funding, but also the extraordinary hands-on opportunities that make the Governor's Scholars Program an unparalleled intellectual experience.



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