

KENTUCKY

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM

2022 ACADEMIC REPORT

**40
YEARS**

**FORGING
THE PATH**



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from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

Forty years of the GSP! Some aspects of the Program have shifted in those four decades (after all, the Internet didn't even exist back then), but in many ways, the foundation of the GSP remains unchanged. Yes, our classroom conversations now include words like Amazon and Google, but the basic mission of the GSP—to enhance Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders—has never wavered. We still believe that cultivating the virtues of the mind is essential to preparing young people for success. Likewise, our scholars always show up as the same age: 16 and 17 years old. Within the contemporary educational and economic parameters, what they need in order to grow remains largely the same, year after year.

Their growth comes in many forms: intellectual, social, spiritual, vocational. This is all thanks to the energy that each campus births for that brief and wonderful time each summer. The result of this growth is a clearer

path to success for our scholars, and it drives us to return each summer. As the GSP's founding mother, Lil Press, once said, "There's nothing more rewarding to me than helping others find their way."

Lil also realized that the Program's impact doesn't end with the scholars. "In fact," she once said, "It has been through helping others find their way that I have found my own way." I can attest to this—after all, I have been with the GSP for 31 of its 40 years. Those years of service have taught me so much about myself. They have led me to myself. In this way I am reminded of James Joyce's *Ulysses*: "Every life," he writes, "is in many days, day after day. We walk through ourselves, meeting robbers, giants, old..., young..., but always meeting ourselves."

Beyond myself, I have seen the GSP's impact resonate throughout Kentucky, and I am proud of the hard work we have all done to ensure the continuation of that impact. The survival of the Program requires a renewed dedication each year to the belief that what we do is essential to the betterment of the Commonwealth—that when we cultivate young people's futures, we cultivate all of Kentucky's future, too.

Please join me in celebrating 40 years and envisioning the next 40. I hope that you, too, feel a renewed dedication to forging the path.




Aris Cedeño
Executive Director & Academic Dean

2022 SCHOLARS BY COUNTY

Counties with up to 3 Governor's Scholars in 2022

Adair	Butler	Edmonson	Harlan	Lee	McCreary	Owsley	Washington
Allen	Caldwell	Estill	Harrison	Leslie	McLean	Perry	Wayne
Ballard	Carlisle	Fleming	Hart*	Letcher	Menifee	Powell	Webster
Bath	Carroll	Fulton	Henry	Lincoln	Metcalfe	Robertson	
Bell	Clay	Gallatin	Jackson	Livingston	Monroe	Russell	
Bourbon	Clinton	Garrard	Knott	Magoffin	Morgan	Simpson	
Bracken	Crittenden	Green	Knox	Martin	Nicholas	Trimble	
Breathitt	Cumberland	Hancock	Lawrence	Mason	Owen	Union	

4 - 6 Scholars

Boyd	Lyon
Breckenridge	Marion
Carter	Meade
Casey	Ohio
Elliott	Pendleton
Floyd	Rockcastle
Grant	Rowan
Grayson	Todd
Henderson	Trigg
Hickman	Whitley
LaRue	Wolfe
Lewis	Woodford
Logan	

7 - 9 Scholars

Anderson	Montgomery
Johnson	Muhlenberg
Marshall	Shelby
Mercer	Spencer

15 - 25 Scholars

Campbell	Madison
Christian	McCracken
Daviess	Nelson
Hardin	Pulaski
Jessamine	Scott
Laurel	

51 - 100

Fayette
Kenton

10 - 14 Scholars

Barren	Graves
Boyle	Greenup
Bullitt	Hopkins
Calloway	Pike
Clark	Taylor
Franklin	

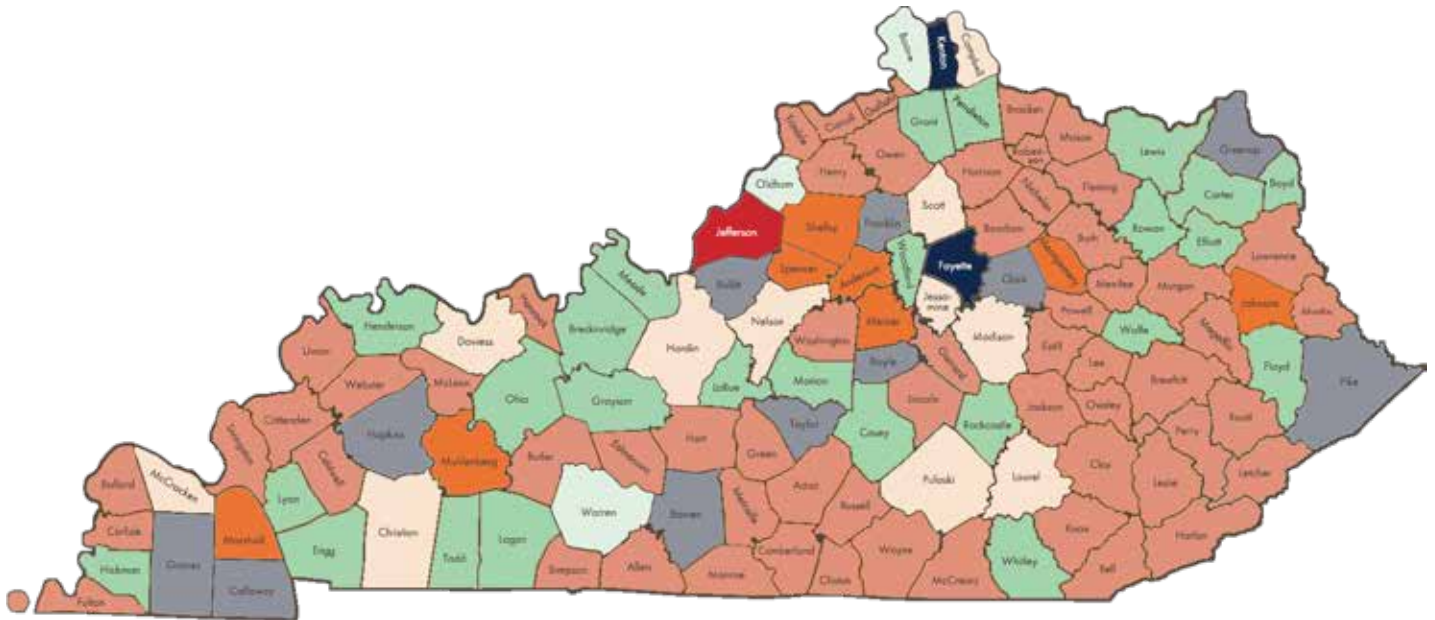
26 - 50 Scholars

Boone	Warren
Oldham	

150+

Jefferson

*Denotes county not represented





FOCUS AREAS

Scholars pursue a particular topic in depth as members of small groups, stressing the development of ideas within that topic and its interrelatedness to other content areas. The courses are meant to provide broad, interdisciplinary, intellectual exposure and enrichment rather than narrow, disciplinary training. Scholars are encouraged to try a Focus Area course in which they have little prior experience.

AGRIBUSINESS & BIOTECHNOLOGY



Centre College

Thomas Reed's Focus Area researched current biotechnologies and agricultural practices pertinent to the near future. Scholars debated issues such as genetic engineering and GMOs. The class also heard from a Kentucky farmer who practices restoration, a technique focused on healing the soil instead of adding chemicals or using monoculture. Finally, scholars researched current sustainability solutions to develop a project they can use within their home, schools, or community, and they proposed an agribusiness plan to the entire GSP-Centre community.

A GSP-Centre scholar prepares an aquaponics system to study, experiment on, and explain to the rest of campus at the weekly Showcase.

“Through all the interesting class lessons, debates, and research sessions, I have been exposed to a completely new world of science.”

— Krish Gupta, Trinity High School

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN



Bellarmino University

Dewey Kincade's scholars began the summer by reading Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*, which views architecture through a philosophical lens and claims that all homes are a reflection of one's childhood home. Next, the class took on a number of hands-on projects to experiment with architectural principles. One project required that a scholar design a building, and a second scholar would then build the design using cardboard boxes. During another project, scholars would assemble in groups of three to four for a few minutes at a time to brainstorm a structure, and then the groups would be broken up and reassembled until a single design idea emerged. This process yielded the final project: a geodesic dome with star-stencil cardboard cut-outs supported by chicken-wire.



Centre College

Drew Morris's scholars explored the form and function of their built environment in and out of the classroom. Scholars drafted existing buildings throughout the community using pencil and graph paper, created their own designs for products, and created 3D models using paper, blocks, and LEGOs. Classes integrated in-depth discussion, podcasts, and documentaries on product design. Students also learned about important design theories, including industrial design, human-centered design, usability design, interaction design, and experiential design. To bring historical architecture to life, students visited and drafted historical sections of Danville, including Constitution Park and the Centre College President's House.



Morehead State University

John Clayton's scholars got back to basics this summer: drafting by hand, studying traditional design philosophies from around the world, and appreciating the importance of high-quality work materials. Scholars spent time in the Morehead Archives poring over original blueprints of campus buildings and learning about the complex process leading from a design to a finished building. Scholars read philosophical texts about spaces, lighting, shadows, and scale. They then created tracings, sketches, floor plans, and perspective drawings by hand, using a variety of authentic, archival materials: handmade and acid-free papers, professional-grade drafting pencils, and organic inks. The overall goal was to create an appreciation for the human, handmade element inherent in any great architectural project.

Top: GSP-Bellarmino scholars assemble a geodesic dome for their class project; **middle:** GSP-Centre scholars make detailed sketches of the historical building in Constitution Square in Danville, which were later used to create proportionate paper models; **bottom:** GSP-Morehead scholars looking at original building blueprints in the Morehead University Archives.

“

This class was not only about astronomy, but also about finding our place in the vastness of our universe and what to do with that knowledge to better our society.”

— Olivia Browning, Lawrence County High School

ASTRONOMY

Bellarmino University

Rico Tyler's Focus Area combined extensive nighttime observing with a variety of hands-on classroom experiences. Scholars learned how to observe the Moon and planets, built and tested solar filters to observe the Sun, and practiced astrophotography. A joint session with the Modes of Mathematical Thinking class demonstrated the mathematics of celestial navigation; scholars learned how Kentucky's borders and history were actually shaped by astronomy. Finally, scholars learned how to use astronomical images to reconstruct a planet's history.

Centre College

Madison Staton's scholars explored out of this world questions such as: What is the Goldilocks zone? How do telescopes work? What does a black hole look like? John A. Read's book *50 Things To See With a Small Telescope* served as a resource for scholars as they discovered the objects they can see in the sky.

Scholars investigated Edwin Hubble's galaxy classification scheme, discussed the life cycle of stars, and created high-resolution diagrams describing the relationship between the luminosity and temperature of stars. They excitedly discussed the five methods for discovering exoplanets and eagerly listened to the release of the James Webb Space Telescope's exoplanet data. Looking toward the future, scholars took on the roles of engineers and designers as they explored and built an Ingenuity-inspired helicopter, designed their own space mission patches, and speculated what living on the moon might look like in the future through a lunar base design project.



A GSP-Centre scholar builds the base of her telescope.

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Joshua Qualls's** class combined daytime activities and nighttime observations to explore the workings of our universe. They studied the Sun-Earth-Moon system and its motions to understand the night sky, seasons, and eclipses. After reaching the limits of the human eye, scholars began observing and studying constellations and planets using telescopes they built in class. Scholars identified binary star systems, Jupiter's moons, and the rings of Saturn. These observations culminated in a campus-wide "Star Party," during which the entire GSP-Morehead community was invited to explore the night sky using enormous telescopes.

BIOLOGICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Centre College

Sunshine Brosi's class focused on the science of survival by analyzing human interactions with nature to meet needs of food and medicine. Scholars examined the reliance of various cultures on wild foods, traditional medicines, as well as historical ecological knowledge and practices. Walks around campus introduced scholars to edible berries and medicinal plants. The scholars removed invasive vines from the woods at Berea College Forest with forester Clint Peterson. Then they used

those vines to create baskets, a much harder task than anticipated. The course also discussed cultural elements of basket making, including the passing on of stories and knowledge that happens while creating goods for material culture.

Guest speakers included Jack Spadaro, who is a mine safety and health expert; Rupert Koopman, a renowned South African botanist; and Dan Feller, a bat ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources.

“Going from classroom discussions to exploring caves, natural bridges, a wastewater treatment plant, a fish hatchery—you really have a great experience at GSP while learning new and interesting things.”

— Riley Bush, *Breathitt County High School*



Top: GSP-Morehead scholars learn what happens behind the scenes at a recycling facility; **bottom:** GSP-Centre scholars hike near Berea College.

Morehead State University

Ekambaram Elumalai's scholars investigated a current environmental issue using a research protocol to expose a local pesticide to the indicator species, *Semotilus atromaculatus*. Scholars analyzed the chemical values of the minnow population and studied samples of their blood to investigate a nuclear damage called micronucleus. Scholars applied the knowledge of mutations to our human population through the food chain and food web. Simultaneously, the class studied the water quality of a local aquatic body, Triplett Creek, to analyze the various parameters that affect the health condition of water.

In **Greg Jacobelli's** Focus Area, scholars explored the role of biological and environmental engineering in our lives. The class discussed how engineering has improved the quality of life and brought us to the present, addressing issues such as public health, energy needs, and global connectivity. Then, they looked at how those technological improvements have started to show some negative effects, like aquifer depletion, air quality issues, and climate shift due to a global increase in temperature. The class then explored ways engineering might be the answer to these issues. Scholars traveled to Morehead's wastewater treatment plant and the community recycling plant to look at some of the ways they are addressing environmental concerns.

BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Bellarmine University

Scott Takacs's class looked at issues around starting and running a business, specifically in the high school and college markets, and compared the viability of new products. The class performed several simulations showing the importance of effective accounting and cash control systems, and they learned about where and why supply chain issues arise. Scholars considered the importance of diversity and inclusion, and they also studied personal finance concepts, including the importance of the “time value of money” or TVM.

Centre College

Scholars in **Michael Spears's** class worked through the first three stages of product development—idea generation, research, and planning—to develop a product or service. To effectively present their developments, scholars researched ways to communicate with customers when emotions are strong, identified what style of leadership they possess, the strengths and weaknesses of their style, and how they can use this knowledge to become more impactful leaders.

During several field trips, scholars visited local business leaders, including a Certified Financial Planner, a young entrepreneur who recently graduated from college, the director of the Norton Center for the Arts, and staff at R. J. Corman Railroad Group.



Top: GSP-Centre scholars traveled to R. J. Corman Railroad Group, where they toured the facility and met with representatives from the marketing department, the senior director of financial planning and accounting, and the director of tax.

Bottom: GSP-Morehead scholars use LEGOs to decide how to incorporate walkable urbanism to revitalize a downtown district.

Morehead State University

Led by **Melony Shemberger**, scholars completed two culminating projects in which they created business plans.

First, scholars worked in entrepreneurial teams to propose a solution to an identified need or problem. Each team designed their business plans on large-format, printed posters.

Second, scholars pursued individual business plans. After proposing ideas, each scholar selected

one, researched it, and used mind-mapping to conceptualize the idea more fully. Each scholar created a business blueprint to communicate the plan's components on a trifold poster.

All of the team and individual business plans were presented on the GSP-Morehead campus. In addition to gaining presentation experience, the scholars' team research projects were curated on Morehead State University's library page.

COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL THEORY

Bellarmino University

Using Don Norman's *The Design of Every Day Things*, scholars in **Emmanuel Fasipe's** Focus Area investigated how principles of communication and social theories influence how people behave in particular social contexts. For example, scholars examined the principles of "universal design," a concept that seeks to create inclusive "environments so that they can be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability." Fasipe facilitated rigorous conversations about the nature and structure of our society and culture and what factors influence positive outcomes in human interactions.



GSP-Bellarmino scholars lead an activity around campus to study the community's reaction to symbolism.

Centre College

Using a series of documentaries curated in part by the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, **Jim Grayson's** scholars examined power dynamics and agency in filmmaking. These films examined controversial incidents and situations over the past decade that have provoked social and political movements across the nation, and scholars were encouraged to voice their own opinions and find ways to reconcile any differences. The scholars also worked with a representative from the nonprofit company Narrative 4 on the "story exchange" method, which is designed to improve deep listening skills and increase empathy between diverse individuals from varying locations around Kentucky and beyond.

“Almost everyone in our class has grown up in different parts of the state with different viewpoints. It has allowed me to listen to and understand opposing ideas from my own, in a safe setting.”

— Hannah McAdoo,
Graves County High School

CREATIVE WRITING & LITERARY STUDIES

Bellarmino University

Sara Loy's Focus Area considered how place and narrative are linked, venturing into fictional landscapes and real-life localities alike. They first examined what it means to analyze literary geography by reading Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher." Then they looked to Kentucky itself as place, reading work by Kentucky authors—including bell hooks, Emily Bingham, and Ada Limón—and taking a silent walk through a Louisville neighborhood. Throughout the summer, scholars wrote their own texts as a way to question their relationships to the locations that matter to them. These writings encouraged scholars to see themselves as both the products of their settings and capable citizen-authors able to create the world they want to inhabit.

Centre College

Scholars in Jay Crocker's class focused their work on the evaluation of art and its impact on writing. The class explored the visual, performing, and literary arts both in class and on field trips throughout Danville and Louisville. They researched and discussed their own favorite piece of artwork; wrote poems and short works of fiction in response to pieces they viewed in the 21c Museum in Louisville; and created stories inspired by famous pieces of classical and modern music, and in reaction to an impromptu workshop offered by the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. Scholars also visited with poet Richard Taylor, who taught the class about the wonders of the short poem and its ability to capture emotions and ideas in fifty words or fewer.



Morehead State University

Jacqueline Hamilton's class explored a wide variety of poetic genres. The scholars learned the form, read well-known poems of that form, and then wrote in that poetic genre. They created autobiographical poems modeled after former Kentucky poet laureate George Ella Lyon's poem "Where I'm From." Scholars also learned how to use fiction literary devices to enhance reader engagement in creative non-fiction essays or movie scripts based on a real story. Numerous published authors came to the class and discussed their processes, providing instruction in a variety of genres as diverse as Amish fiction to historical non-fiction. Larger projects included compiling a class book called *GSPoetry* that featured a page of writing from each scholar and copying haikus on sky lanterns to send their poetry in flight one evening over Morehead's Eagle Lake.

Left: GSP-Morehead scholars rewrite a novel they have studied into a puppet show; **right:** GSP-Bellarmino scholars illustrate their mental maps of their GSP experience.

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Bellarmino University

Anne Justice and her scholars studied several distinct cultural groups from around the world through the lens of significant events or constructs of each culture. The class examined the Japanese garden, Italian opera, Mexican fiesta, Spanish bullfight, and South African townships to understand how people who share a common cultural system arrange and shape the physical and social world around them and how those same people are influenced by their beliefs, environment, and actions. Scholars constructed Japanese gardens, folded paper cranes using origami techniques, watched the popular opera *Aida*, created piñatas, prepared tortilla de patata, and examined the concept of Ubuntu.

GSP-Morehead scholars test their original models of an agricultural irrigation system.



Morehead State University

Scholars in **Shawna Felkins's** Focus Area explored the history of prominent urban centers in civilizations throughout time and their role in creating culture. Scholars read Annalee Newitz's *Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age* to understand the ramifications of decisions that humans make for our societies. In a multi-week project, scholars created their own civilizations, competing in challenges simulating hunting and irrigation, crafting cultural

artifacts, and writing the histories of their citizens. Scholars utilized the extensive library collection at Morehead State University, completing hours of research-based prompts about specific societal and cultural breakthroughs and technology. Their research was used in a live-action table-top roleplaying game called *Civilization Rising*, in which each civilization had to work collaboratively to make decisions about land, resources, military tactics, and diplomacy.

“ I learned how powerful and transformative sharing your truth and experiences can be to those around you.”

– Lilly Reid, Bullitt East High School

DRAMATIC EXPRESSION

Bellarmino University

To “demystify the dramatic,” **Andrew Stairs** and his scholars returned to the etymology of theatre: a “seeing place” for performers and audiences to encounter one another. Practice with Augusto Boal’s *Theatre of the Oppressed* helped scholars contemplate expression as a stage where they rehearse solutions to pressing social needs. In solo and devised pieces, scholars confronted both imposed and internalized stereotypes before proposing how to equitably address these forms of discrimination. The documentary *Shakespeare Behind Bars* provided a local case study for theatre’s potential as rehabilitation. Kentucky Shakespeare’s artistic director Matt Wallace enriched scholars’ understanding of the program during a field trip to Louisville’s Central Park.

Centre College

Scholars in **Melanie Kidwell’s** class spent the summer devising an original interpretation of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice for the stage. They began by reading the myth as told by Ovid and Edith Hamilton. Then they sought inspiration by looking at a variety of interpretations and reimaginings throughout history, including paintings, sculptures, poetry, music, and scripts. From there, scholars explored questions and themes that arise in the works: What does love look like? What are the different ways that people show their love? How do people deal with grief? What might the underworld look like and who inhabits it?

The scholars’ work culminated in a class-created performance for the entire GSP-Centre community.

GSP-Bellarmino scholars collectively rehearse a monologue to explore how beats of action comprise the whole text.



ENGINEERING

Bellarmino University

Led by **Duk Lee**, scholars explored flying objects called “walkalong gliders” and “tumbling wings,” which are easily made with a sheet of paper or thin foam. Flying these new instruments manifested a completely different yet more meaningful aeronautic experience than throwing paper airplanes.

Lee’s class then joined **Denise Owens’s** scholars to investigate the various roles engineers play in today’s society. The two classes took field trips designed to help them examine those roles. They toured McAlpine Locks and Dam, where they participated in a road and bridge design project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That was followed by a visit to East Kentucky Power Cooperative, then Lexmark of Kentucky to learn about a variety of engineering disciplines. To help them investigate the pursuit of an engineering career, the scholars also visited the engineering colleges at the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky.



FILM STUDIES

Bellarmino University

Brenna Sherrill provided her scholars with opportunities for both film analysis and hands-on filmmaking experiences this summer. Scholars watched films as differentiated as *Parasite* (2019), *Gaslight* (1944), and *Moulin Rouge!* (2001) to provide various perspectives of how film has changed over time and to consider how film reflects the time and society from which it comes.

Equipped with these skills, scholars then produced their own films: a GSP documentary, a horror film, two comedy shorts, a music video, and a romantic comedy.

Morehead State University

Jason Meenach’s scholars first learned about the basics of cinematography, framing, and composition, and then analyzed the impact of directorial decisions. Following that, the entire class became a film crew that worked in production units to reimagine a music video, and for this they chose a favorite song from *Pitch Perfect*. Their music video premiered at Showcase. Film Studies then collaborated with Forensic Science to create vlogs about famous cold case investigations. As a culminating project, scholars worked in small groups to create an original short film of their choosing.



Top: GSP-Bellarmino scholars work on a civil engineering project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

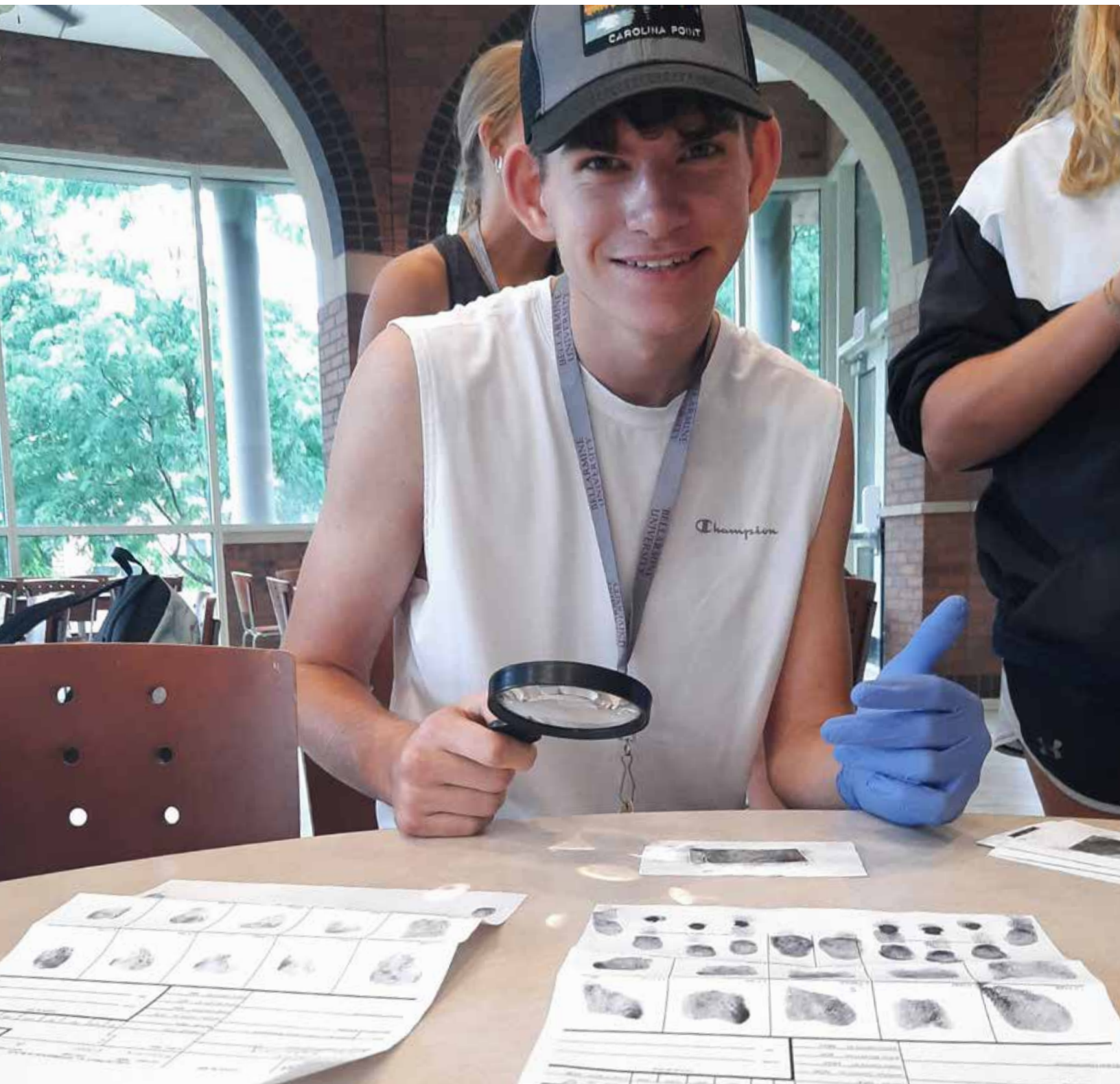
Bottom: GSP-Morehead scholars rehearse the choreography for a dance sequence in their music video.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Bellarmino University

Jim Seaver's scholars explored the world of organized crime in depth. Their studies took them around the globe from modern-day New York City to 1920's Chicago, from England to Colombia, and from Italy to Japan as they examined what differentiates organized crime from ordinary crime and how various law enforcement agencies attempt to combat it. Closer to home, they explored the history of organized crime in Kentucky and how our state's leaders are adapting to face new threats in the twenty-first century. Finally, the scholars analyzed two films about the mafia as they questioned the ways in which Hollywood has influenced popular thinking about this subject.

A GSP-Bellarmino scholar practices the skill of fingerprinting.





GSP-Centre scholars complete a lab exercise on the different types of blood spatter.

Centre College

Lovence Ainembabazi led her class through the field of forensic science by reading books, role playing, meeting with experts in the field, and engaging in fun chemistry and forensic science experiments. Scholars practiced crime scene preserving and examining; collected evidence such as blood spatters, fingerprints, footprints, and digital forensics; and learned about search and rescue investigations with cadaver dogs. An artificial crime scene gave scholars the opportunity to practice their skills, assume new roles, and set out to solve a mystery on campus. They collected evidence from the crime scene and processed it, ultimately arriving at a theory about what happened there.

Joey Budd's scholars began the summer with an introduction to forensics's role within the criminal justice system. Scholars examined cases in which forensics helped to exonerate convicted individuals, then they visited the Kentucky State crime lab and learned how evidence is processed and examined in areas such as toxicology, ballistics, and latent prints. The class also visited with an expert in computer and digital evidence to learn how investigators use computer forensics to catch online predators. Scholars were surprised to learn how much data their phones actually collect and how investigators would use this data to solve a crime.

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Tracie Morgan's** Focus Area considered how the portrayal of forensic science on popular crime shows can easily influence a juror's decision. The class examined the magnitude of this influence by reviewing case studies in which improper analysis of evidence led to wrongful convictions.

They also investigated the historical development of various forensic methods by examining their own fingerprints, processing a crime scene, and attempting to profile an infamous suspect in a long-standing cold case. Scholars studied the evolution of these methods by researching modern technologies in the field. For example, they learned how scientists can now use biosensors to identify suspects simply by evaluating substances found in fingerprints.

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Bellarmino University

Ryan Blood's class began by defining the scope of healthcare as a field. Scholars dug into what access to healthcare means to members of communities across Kentucky, particularly what struggles are faced by members of our state. The changes in access to care in recent years became a topic of focus, especially how care is changing in the remote-work era. The healthcare industry class broke down what does it take to provide care at the community and institution levels, and they examined the composition of a hospital and how location factors into care delivery. Finally, scholars examined what it means to be healthy and the differences between health and fitness.

Centre College

James Bland's scholars studied and discussed healing practices of the mind, body, and soul. While reading Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air*, scholars aimed to answer what it means to live a full, happy, and complete life—as well as the importance of holistic healthcare and how it could be implemented into the patient's treatment plan. Scholars used the book to plan out their own career paths and discussed the necessary steps it will take to achieve their goals and aspirations. These conversations were aided by a visit to the University of Louisville School of Dentistry and meetings with the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, the Danville EMS, and several other healthcare professionals in the central Kentucky area.

Morehead State University

Cindy Brainard introduced her scholars to the incredible number and variation of potential career pathways available within healthcare. Scholars explored the various job descriptions, educational requirements, work environments, and salaries as they discussed our growing need for quality and complete health care.

Next, the class narrowed their focus to healthy sleeping habits. With the assistance of Matthew Walker's book *Why We Sleep*, scholars considered their own sleep habits and the resulting benefits gained or lost due to those habits. The text introduced questions about REM and NREM sleep as well as length of sleep time and dreams. As scholars applied the concepts in the book to their own lives, most were inspired to make positive changes to their sleeping habits.



GSP-Centre scholars learn how to take blood pressure.

“

This class allowed me to venture outside of my comfort zone, and provided a loving community that gave me the courage to do so.”

— Haylee Allen,
Campbellsville High School

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

Bellarmino University

Scholars in **Steve Easley's** Focus Area explored the idea of stories in history, in particular how perspective plays a role in how history is presented. With the help of James Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, scholars discussed why certain topics are left out of the common historical narrative, recent advancements in including more diverse perspectives in history, and what is being done to improve the stories told in history classes and textbooks. Scholars visited the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, where they examined how the story of Kentucky history is told through the Kentucky Journey exhibit and the Old State Capitol tour. Finally, scholars explored the role that teachers play in telling the story of history in today's schools. Through examination of the current Social Studies standards and recent legislation regarding the teaching of Social Studies, scholars discovered the importance of viewing history from multiple perspectives in order to tell a more complete and compelling story of our nation's history.

Centre College

Blossom Brosi's scholars used the topic of sports to examine social, cultural, and political topics and issues in American history. Dave Zirin's *A People's History of Sports in the United States* served as a guide to the history of sports. Scholars traveled to the Danville-Boyle County African American History Center, where they conducted research on the Negro Baseball League teams of Danville in the early 1900's. Scholars interviewed the president of the center, Michael Hughes, about his first-hand experiences during the integration of Danville Schools in the 1960's and the role that sports played in integration. Scholars also traveled to Louisville to visit the Muhammad Ali Center, where they learned about Ali and engaged in discussion with Ali Center staff about the intersection of sports and civics.

GSP-Bellarmino scholars stand "at home" at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Bellarmine University

Koop Berry's scholars began the summer by reading Hans Morgenthau's essay "To Intervene or Not to Intervene" to help understand why countries choose to. Scholars chose to examine several conflicts in countries such as Ethiopia, Mali, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Libya. They researched these conflicts, presented their findings to the class, and identified common characteristics of those conflicts. The scholars met with former Army Captain Ed Blayne, who spoke about his role with the U.S. Army based in Afghanistan during the War on Terror.

During a series of United Nations Security Council simulations, each scholar represented one of the member countries, researched their imaginary home, and then represented that country by addressing conflicts in Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti.

Morehead State University

Ogechi Anyanwu's class explored the dimensions of foreign interventions to understand the nuances of international relations and security. They read and debated the issues raised in Simon Jenkins's *Mission Accomplished?: The Crisis of International Intervention* and applied their insights to controversies surrounding foreign interventions in select countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Scholars engaged in stimulating debates and group presentations on the motives, justifications, and effectiveness of foreign interventions and the nature of domestic reactions, drawing heavily from the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia. They also researched and debated the 74-year-old Israel-Palestinian conflict and created a poster board that outlined their solutions to the problem, establishing win-win compromises and conditions that would make potential foreign intervention unnecessary.

GSP-Morehead scholars present their proposed peace agreement between Israel and Palestine.



JOURNALISM & MASS MEDIA

Bellarmino University

Megan Sampson's scholars spent the summer looking for good news. They created and marketed a site that focused on all the good happening at GSP this summer. Through the production of their site, scholars were able to practice pitching and writing stories, taking photos and video, managing social media advertising, and editing stories. Scholars also collaborated with the Film Studies class on an interview project that would help expand their skills of asking initial and follow-up questions and drawing the interview subject deeper into the interview.



Left: GSP-Bellarmino scholars visit the student media production facilities on WKU's campus; **right:** GSP-Centre scholars on the GSPerspective podcasting team record their weekly episode in the Media Depot at the University of Kentucky.

Centre College

Hayley Hoffman's scholars built their own online newspaper, *Centre of Attention*, and pitched their own stories each week during editorial meetings. Throughout the summer, *Centre of Attention* included reviews of every film shown in the Classic Film Series, stories and photos of Focus Area and General Studies classes, in-depth interviews with scholars and staff members, and club and event recaps. Additionally, scholars visited Dennis Berman, the former business editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, and Bonnie Jean Feldkamp, opinions editor at *The Courier-Journal*, to discuss current issues facing journalists today.

Using Dean Nelson's book *Talk to Me: How to Ask Better Questions, Get Better Answers, and Interview Anyone Like a Pro* and the film *C'mon C'mon* as guides, scholars also dove into the world of podcasting and audio journalism. In groups, they recorded four weekly podcasts: *GSPerspective*, featuring interviews with scholars; *GSP Connections*, featuring reflections on campus life and relationships; *GSParody*, featuring humorous stories from each week of the program; and *GSPN*, featuring sports commentary and recaps from campus and beyond.

“GSP has taught me to be fearless in the face of failure.”

— Bailee Harper,
Breckinridge County High School

MODES OF MATHEMATICAL THINKING

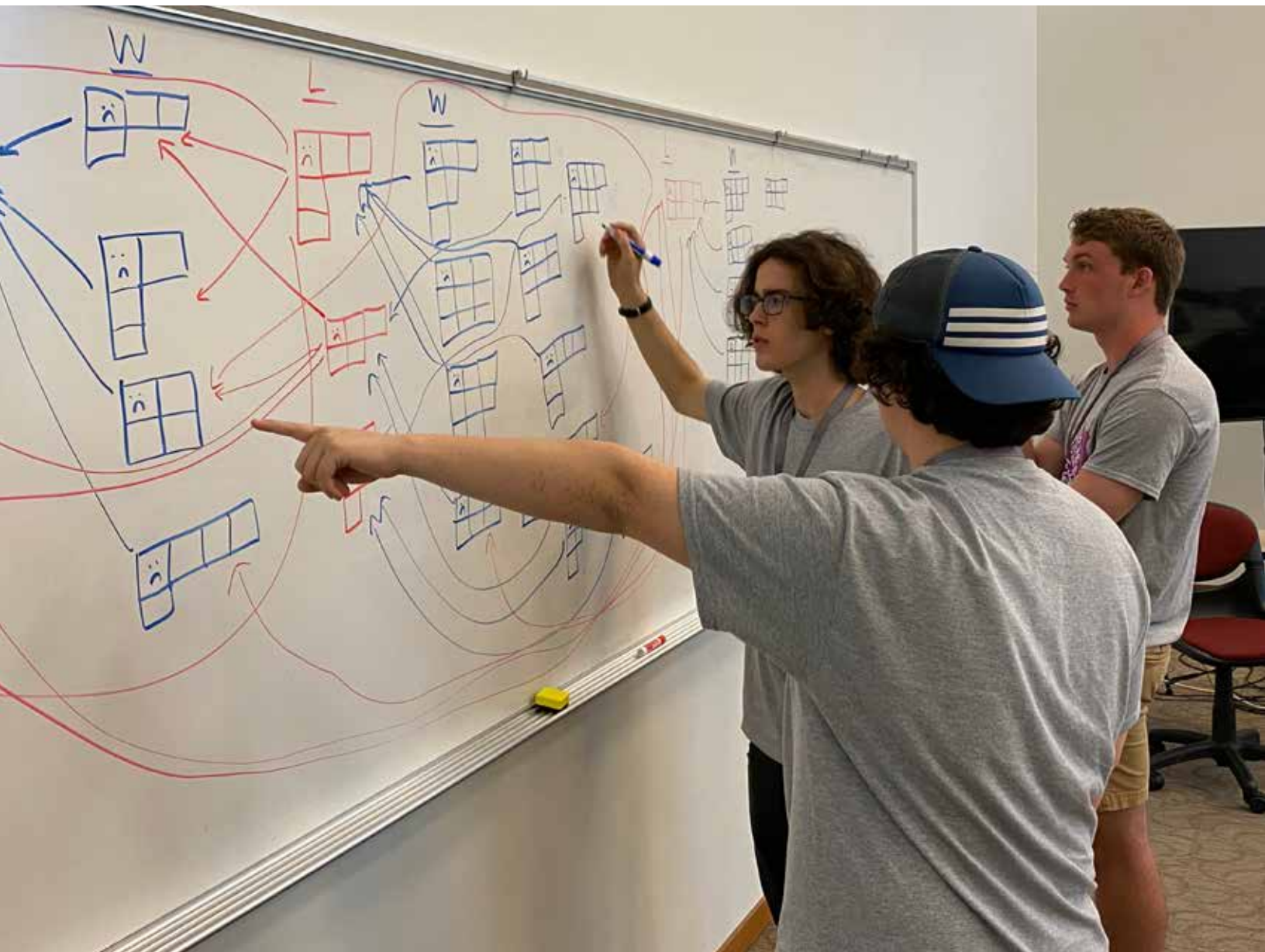
Bellarmino University

Brad Elliott's Focus Area scholars studied methods of problem-solving and their applications. Through a variety of puzzles and simple games, they learned and practiced techniques they can transfer to more complex problems. As a theme of this class, they saw how math is applicable to nearly every facet of their life and culture. Jordan Ellenberg's book *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking* reinforced this theme. Scholars discussed illogical assumptions and non-mathematical decision-making that often leads to undesirable outcomes, and how to avoid making similar mistakes.

Centre College

Scholars in **Will Garcia's** class explored how math intersects with the real world. They studied the philosophical roots of mathematics and debated the existence and origin of numbers. Will introduced the scholars to mathematical concepts such as graph theory, game theory, propositional logic, probability, proofs, and fractals. They used puzzles, paradoxes, and riddles to help relate mathematical theories to real life examples.

GSP-Bellarmino scholars find the optimal strategy for a game by working backward and considering every configuration.



MUSIC THEORY & PERFORMANCE

Centre College

Chris Wheeler's Focus Area spent the summer stretching their musical abilities and senses by means of selecting and dissecting high-level repertoire. Scholars embraced the challenge of finding out how their individual musical strengths fit together as a whole to create something greater than the individual. Through careful rehearsal and feedback, scholars focused on the power of the process and learned how to break free from all of the strict standards impressed upon them by typical approaches to music education in their communities. Instead, they embraced the unique value of being their own musicians and the experience of creating music with friends, finding a joy that can't be explained by standards or rubrics.



GSP-Morehead scholars compose a musical score for their silent film.

Morehead State University

Tana Field's class focused on music as a vehicle for storytelling. Through program music, opera, and film score, scholars considered the means by which music tells or enhances the emotional and visual aspects of a story. Scholars explored empathetic sound, the value of silence, leitmotif, and diegetic and non-diegetic music. In small groups, scholars were charged with creating and producing original silent films and unique musical scores to enhance the storytelling within each film.

Class highlights included a trip to Huntington, West Virginia's Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, an historic theatre designed for vaudeville and silent film, as well as the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

PHILOSOPHY

Bellarmino University

What exists? How do we know things? What should we do? What is art? How do good arguments work?

These are the guiding questions of five major branches of philosophy—metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, and logic—and scholars in **Lisa Hicks's** Focus Area explored these branches. Scholars chose the order of the five units, and each unit included a test-your-philosophical-intuitions quiz, a film, a small group project or activity, and several discussions. Activities included logic puzzles and games, a campus art walk, and several in-class poster sessions. Films included *Run Lola Run* (in metaphysics week), *Thank You For Smoking* (in logic week), *Philadelphia* (in ethics week), *The Red Violin* (in aesthetics week) and *The History Boys* (in epistemology week).

Centre College

In **Hayden Hagerman's** class, scholars examined both historical movements and figures in philosophy as well as their own philosophical questions. Using Boethius's *On the Consolation of Philosophy* as a guide, scholars considered the complex but winsome nature of philosophy itself. Through student-led discussions, group research projects, debate, readings, film, guest lecturers, and meme-making, scholars challenged themselves and others to see where their own minds took them, thereby fulfilling Plato's adage, "Philosophy begins in wonder."

Scholars also researched their own philosophical questions, and so were provided with multiple opportunities for independent research, as well as occasions to present their budding insights to the class.

“

**I WILL NEVER
LOOK AT THE
WORLD THE
SAME AFTER
COMING
TO GSP.**

”

*—Abby Christian,
Boyd County High School*

Morehead State University

John Wilcox's class explored different philosophical answers to questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and how to live a morally good life. Beginning with the example of Socrates, scholars examined how the practice of asking philosophical questions develops naturally into a more responsible approach to the role of citizenship; Socrates reasoned that because Athens had provided him the kind of life that allowed him to ask questions about the meaning of life and to define his moral identity, then he was morally bound to uphold the basic principles that held that society together. The scholars then explored how Socrates influenced Plato's theories about how the highest good is not something private to an individual but includes the good of every member of the social whole.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Morehead State University

Mary Osborne challenged her scholars to reconsider the way scientists look at everyday devices using recycled materials. Scholars studied methods of reducing, reusing, and recycling paper and plastic goods, which included a trip to the local recycling center. There, scholars were able to see firsthand the benefits and pitfalls of material recycling. To put these discoveries into practice, scholars were challenged to build upon their knowledge of physical laws and limitations of fluid mediums. This was achieved by improving designs of everyday innovations using scraps of materials collected from the GSP-Morehead community. Scholars collaborated to build gliders, boats, submarines, and more out of cardboard and plastic bottles.

Scholars in **John Hooker's** Focus Area experimented with some of nature's most prevalent phenomena and deepened their understanding of the chemistry and physics that explained their observations. They engaged in scientific and engineering practices, such as designing experiments, collecting and interpreting data, and constructing explanations, that all career scientists and engineers perform on a daily basis. Concepts like gravity and sound, which seem straightforward in textbooks, proved to be more complex in real-world application.

Scholars also learned that science isn't easy. They encountered setbacks in their experimental design and data collection and found that, sometimes, you can learn just as much from a failed experiment as you can from a successful one.

GSP-Morehead scholars test boats they built out of only cardboard and duct tape.



POLITICAL & LEGAL ISSUES

Bellarmino University

Derrick Staton's scholars began the summer by learning the various roles that people perform in the legal system and the necessity of competency for all of those elements. The scholars then took on separate roles in two mock trials and worked through all steps necessary to put on a jury trial from the opening statements to the closing statements.

Through their mock trials and class discussions, scholars explored issues associated with civil rights in Kentucky, including interactions with law enforcement and relevant court decisions that covered those specific interactions. They also had the opportunity to engage with and discuss the current political environment with leaders throughout Kentucky.

Left: GSP-Centre scholars in the House chamber with Kentucky State Senators Max Wise (R-16) and Morgan McGarvey (D-19); **right:** GSP-Morehead scholars seize the opportunity to learn from Kentucky State Representative Cherynn Stevenson during their mock trial.



Centre College

Scholars in **John Powell's** class examined the interlocking development of political ideals, practical realities, and constitutional norms. They reviewed and analyzed the major decisions of this historic session of the U.S. Supreme Court. In looking at cases related to privacy, Second-Amendment rights, tribal rights, and separation of church and state, they evaluated each decision in light of three theories of justice—maximizing welfare, promoting freedom, and promoting virtue—and attempted to balance gains and losses in the application of each approach. This was especially relevant in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which was handed down less than one month after the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas.



Morehead State University

Caliesha Comley's scholars analyzed a variety of contemporary issues surrounding the U.S. criminal justice system. They developed skills for effective argumentation and active listening through discussions on topics such as mass incarceration, the death penalty, and the intersectional impact of systemic inequalities. Through a study of *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, a memoir by lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson, scholars explored the challenges and opportunities for equal justice and representation within political, legal, and social processes. Scholars put into practice these lessons, along with newly learned skills in direct and cross examination, to enact a mock criminal trial.

PSYCHOLOGY & BEHAVIORAL STUDIES

Bellarmine University

Jodi Treadway's Focus Area centered on affective science, which is the science of emotions and emotional expression. First, scholars looked at how psychologists and social scientists currently define emotions and found that emotions are much more complicated than is often assumed. They broke emotions down into their various components: physiological, cognitive, and social expressions. The scholars learned about the various theories of how emotion is generated physiologically, including facial expressions and bodily sensations. They looked at the brain structures most associated with emotions and how their processes can be easily disrupted. Then they learned about the emotional development process from infancy to young adulthood, which included an empathic exercise where they created materials to help younger teens adjust to the emotional disruptions of puberty. Finally, scholars were encouraged to think about their personal emotional experiences, and come up with personal strategies for better understanding their own emotional landscapes.

Centre College

In every phase of our lives, belonging is a crucial foundation for the development and maintenance of our sense of self, our common ground, and our connectivity to other people. **Michelle Jones's** scholars were able to revel in this science of belonging as they researched the degrees to which people belong in their communities. After reading *The Psychology of Belonging* by Kelly-Ann Allen, researching, and having candid in-class discussions, scholars created a campus-wide research experiment that assessed scholars, faculty, and staff to determine how they belong within their various personality groups, showing compatibility, and ultimately revealing that this fabricated experiment illustrated our intense desire to all belong and co-exist—a requirement to contribute and thrive in a community.

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Emily Morrell's** Focus Area explored the world of fandom. What does it mean to be a fan of something, someone, or someplace? They interrogated a wide array of fan practices—from what fans buy to what they believe and the types of communities to which they are drawn. Conversations moved beyond surface-level assumptions about “fangirls” and football diehards to consider how gender, age, race, and economics affect the ways we all choose what to love and how we make meaning. Scholars considered the line between fandom, cultish language, and religion and delved into the surprising ways those lines blur when the specifics of historical context come into play.

In **Raven Mineo's** class, scholars delved into the mysteries of human memory. They studied how memories are formed, stored, and retrieved, as well as the ramifications of diseased and disordered memories. Scholars explored how our sensory systems are ingrained in our memory-making abilities and participated in sensory experiments. Additionally, scholars investigated how our memories and our understanding of our past influences our identity formation and how we view ourselves. Scholars were able to apply these concepts on both an individual and sociocultural level.

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE



GSP-Morehead scholars study Mexican cuisine and prepare traditional nopales tacos.

Centre College

Scholars in **Clint Hendrix's** Focus Area explored how the United States has become the third largest Spanish-speaking country. For a mosaic approach to U.S. Latinx culture, scholars learned through the lenses of historical analysis, documentaries, music, Brando Skyhorse's novel *The Madonnas of Echo Park*, and work by the newly appointed Poet Laureate Ada Limón, a Lexingtonian of Mexican-American descent.

In addition to working on improving their communication in the Spanish language with listening, speaking, reading, and writing exercises, scholars also spent time designing and implementing activities for Danville's Centro Latino, which hosted a day camp for Boyle County's Latinx children.

Morehead State University

Adriane Hardin-Davis's scholars focused on the United States's relationship with Mexico. They studied popular Mexican cuisine and made cactus tacos and tortillas. Scholars also traveled to a local taqueria and panadería to shop and practice their Spanish language skills. The scholars practiced Spanish language reading, speaking, writing and listening throughout the summer by participating in a variety of language activities. They used this knowledge to develop a Spanish-Day Camp for children at Cardinal Valley Park in Lexington. The scholars designed dual-language games, activities and mini-lessons for Spanish-speaking children. Scholars also learned to dance the bachata and the salsa by taking a lesson at the Salsa Center. When they returned to campus, they hosted pop-up dance lessons for their fellow scholars.

“Our discussions about immigrants' struggles have inspired me to continue to educate myself, have a voice, and get involved where I can.”

— Caelan Harbison, Louisville Male High School



GENERAL STUDIES

General Studies classes emphasize creative thinking, problem solving, service learning, and civic engagement. Scholars are assigned to a class that takes a different learning approach from their Focus Area. This 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. The following is a small sample of the General Studies classes offered in 2022.

The Politics of Poverty Morehead State University

Ogechi Anyanwu's class explored the causes of and solutions to poverty across cultures. Scholars discussed Benjamin Curtis and Serena Cosgrove's *Understanding Global Poverty: Causes, Capabilities and Human Development*. They applied insights from the book to identify how conflicts, the exploitation of multinational corporations, political leadership, and sociocultural institution and practices have contributed to poverty, especially in developing countries, often triggering immigration to more developed countries. The class hosted Paul J. Semisch, Assistant Director of Gateway Homeless Coalition, Inc., who spoke on the realities of homelessness in rural America and discussed the myths and prejudices surrounding the subject.

Tomorrow Is a Place We Are Together Centre College

Hayley Hoffman's class examined the uses of rituals to connect more deeply with ourselves and others. Framed by Casper Ter Kuile's *The Power of Ritual: Turning Everyday Activities into Soulful Practices*, scholars moved through five rituals—connecting with self, connecting with others, connecting with nature, connecting with transcendence, and recognizing connections already in existence—throughout the summer. Highlights of the course included a pilgrimage to the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge in Parksville and a visit with the monks at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist.

Around the World in 35 Days Bellarmine University

Koop Berry led her scholars on a tour of the culture, history, and food of the regions of the world. Scholars explored culture through cooking, including Scottish bannock, French bread, chicken teriyaki, and even hot dogs. They explored a variety of topics such as the indigenous cultures of the Mayans and Aztecs; the ancient kingdom of Ghana/Akwar; the politics of Argentina through the musical *Evita*; Greek, Roman and Nordic mythology; the history of racing in Europe; and Bollywood. The scholars also helped to organize and set up a Multicultural Day for the campus community and collaborated with Kentucky Refugee Ministries to complete a home setup for a refugee family from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Movers & Shakers Morehead State University

Through music, art, literature, and policy, **Caliesha Comley's** scholars examined historical and contemporary social movements elevated by the unique voices and skills of youth. From climate justice to gun violence prevention to racial equality, scholars studied youth activists who have influenced bold changes in policy and culture and used their example to envision change they could make in their own communities. Scholars explored a range of opportunities for advocacy and involvement and exercised their own power as agents of social change as they collaborated on an anti-vaping awareness campaign.

The Thing About Dolly Centre College

Clint Hendrix's class considered the life and career of Dolly Parton to learn how a child with 11 siblings, born in a humble Appalachian home, rose to be a model of civility and a philanthropist during an era when few women in country music were headlining shows. Using Sarah Smarsh's biography *She Come By It Natural: Dolly Parton and the Women Who Lived Her Songs*, Jad Abumrad's podcast *Dolly Parton's America*, the documentary *Here I Am*, music, and the film *9 to 5*, scholars expanded their own notions of civility in politics and giving back to their community. As Boyle and Mercer Counties had recently launched a branch of Dolly's Imagination Library, the scholars helped the publicity campaign by hanging flyers and reaching out to the Danville newspaper. A fundraiser for the local branch of the Imagination Library raised over \$1,800 to provide 1,500 free books to local children.

GSP-Bellarmine scholars practice stand-up comedy.

Tragedy + Time Bellarmine University

What's so funny? No, really. Why do some things make us laugh and some things don't? Are comedians born funny, or is comedy a skill that can be developed and honed over time? What's it like to write and perform humorous content—or even improvise it—knowing that few fates feel worse in the moment than dying on stage?

Jim Seaver's scholars asked these questions and many more as they explored the world of comedy performance through improv, stand-up, and sketch comedy. Beginning with a deep dive into the philosophical and psychological theories regarding humor, scholars then discussed comedy greats like Buster Keaton and Carol Burnett in addition to analyzing programs like *Saturday Night Live* and *Key & Peele*. Once a firm foundation had been established, scholars turned their attention to performing comedy themselves. They became comedians through countless improv exercises and stand-up routines that they wrote, workshopped, and performed in front of each other.





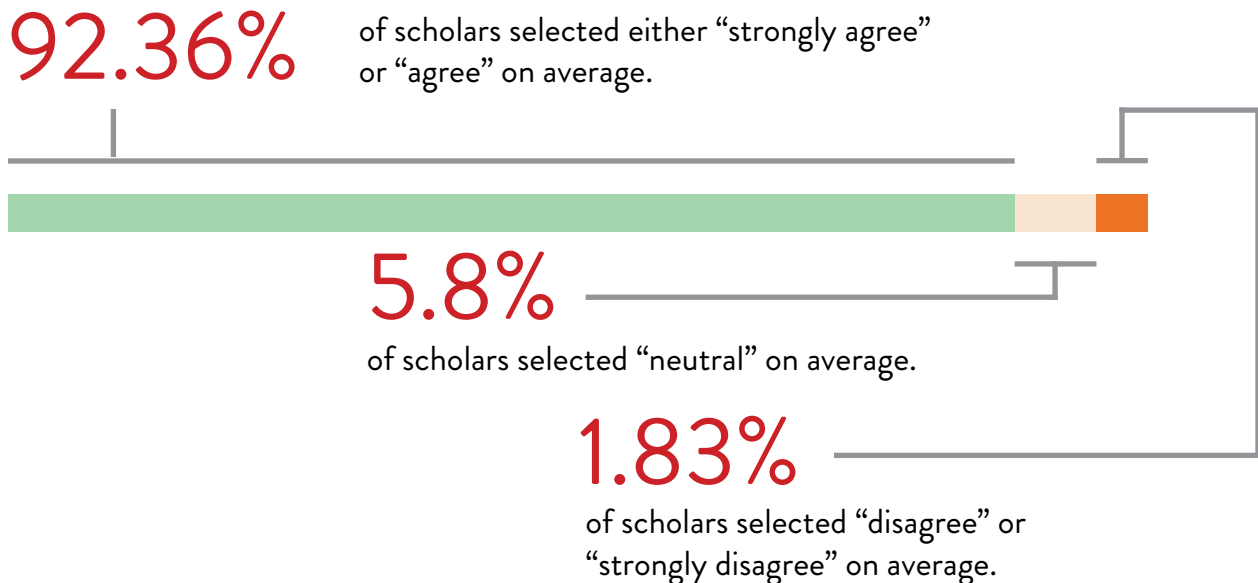
SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE SURVEY

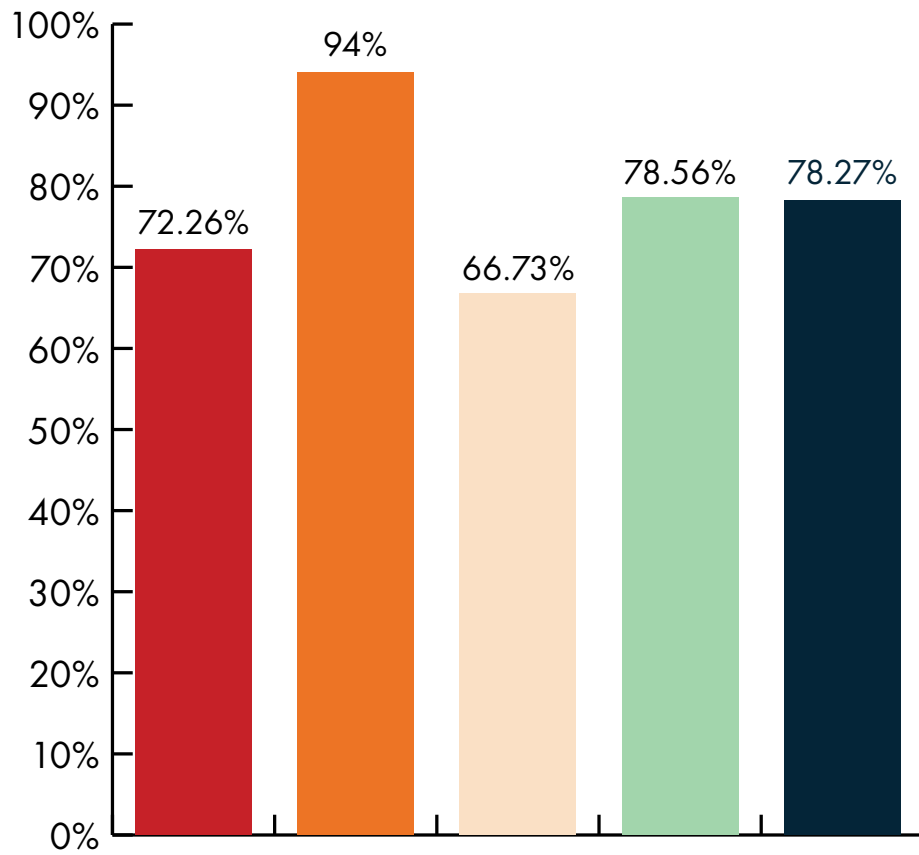
Each summer, before leaving their respective campuses, all Governor’s Scholars are asked to complete a Scholar Experience Survey of approximately thirty questions pertaining to all aspects of GSP. Program staff use the survey results to help gauge the success of the summer, evaluate faculty and staff performance, understand the Program’s impact on the scholars themselves, and plan for the upcoming summer.

The following is a sample of results from the 2022 Scholar Experience Survey. For a complete list of questions and results, visit the GSP website at gsp.ky.gov.

OVERALL RESULTS

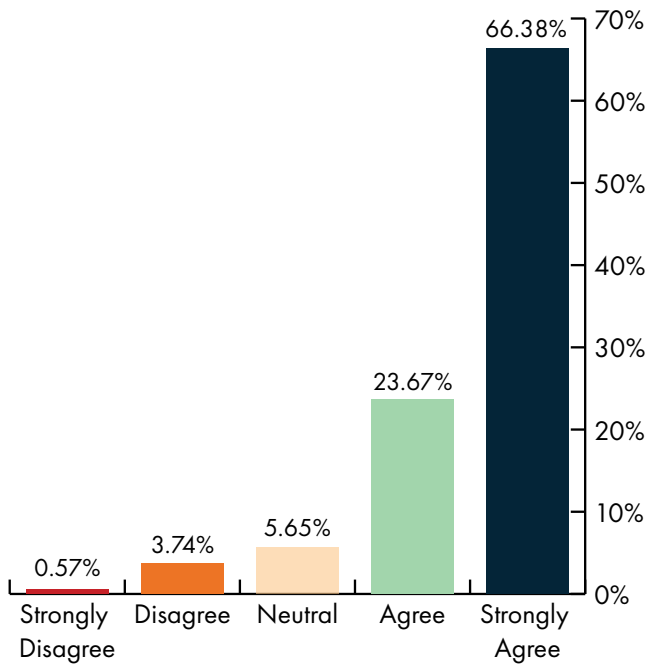
Scholars overwhelmingly rated their GSP experience as positive. On average, participants selected either “strongly agree” or “agree” 92.36% of the time. In comparison, “neutral” responses made up 5.8% of the total. Scholars very rarely reacted negatively to the survey prompts, choosing “disagree” only 1.42% of the time and “strongly disagree” in only 0.41% of responses.





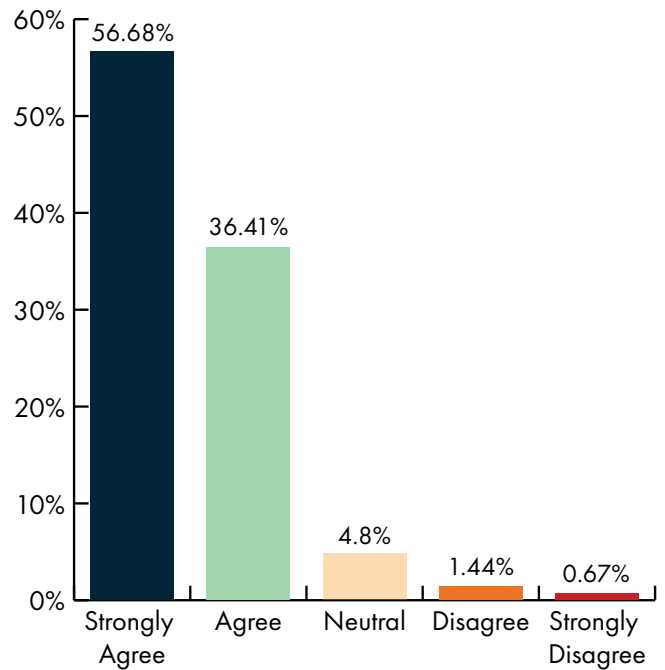
“My participation in the Governor’s Scholars Program has strengthened my...”

- 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

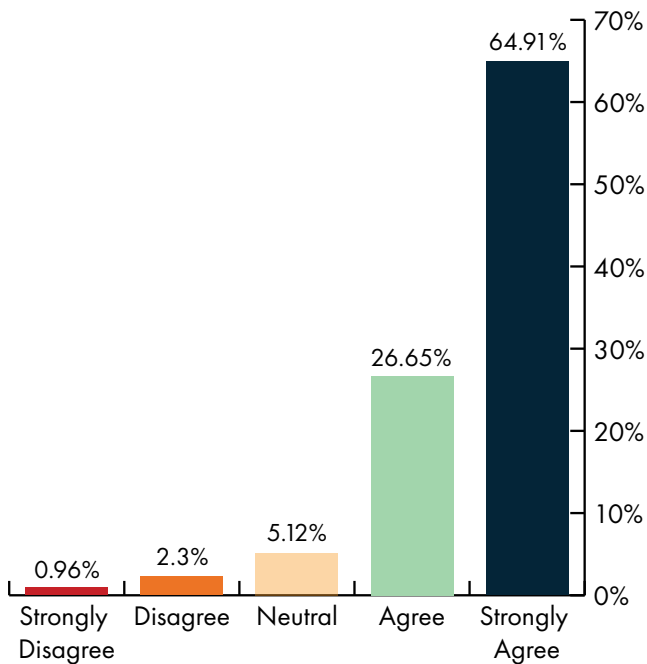


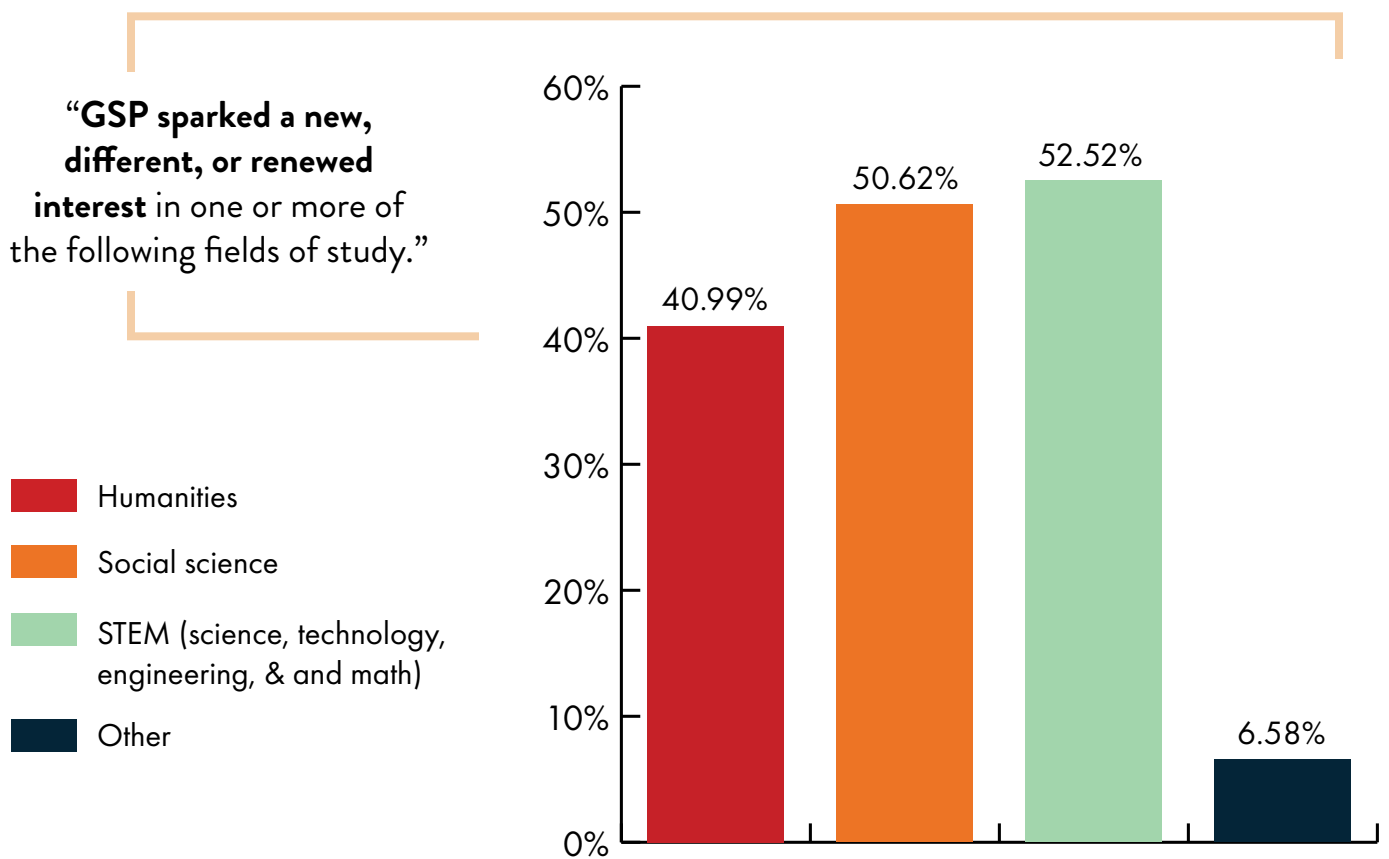
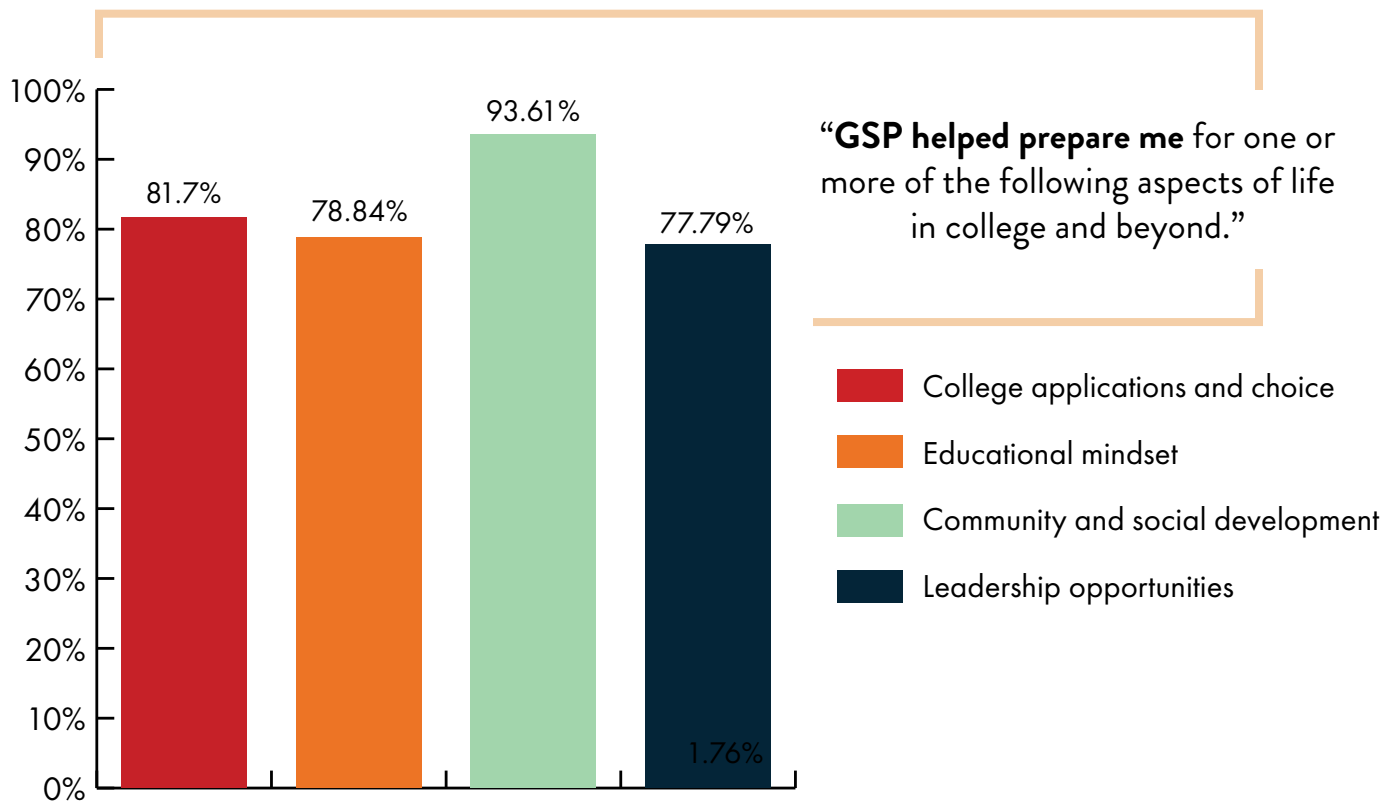
“My **Focus Area** was a positive learning experience.”

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



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



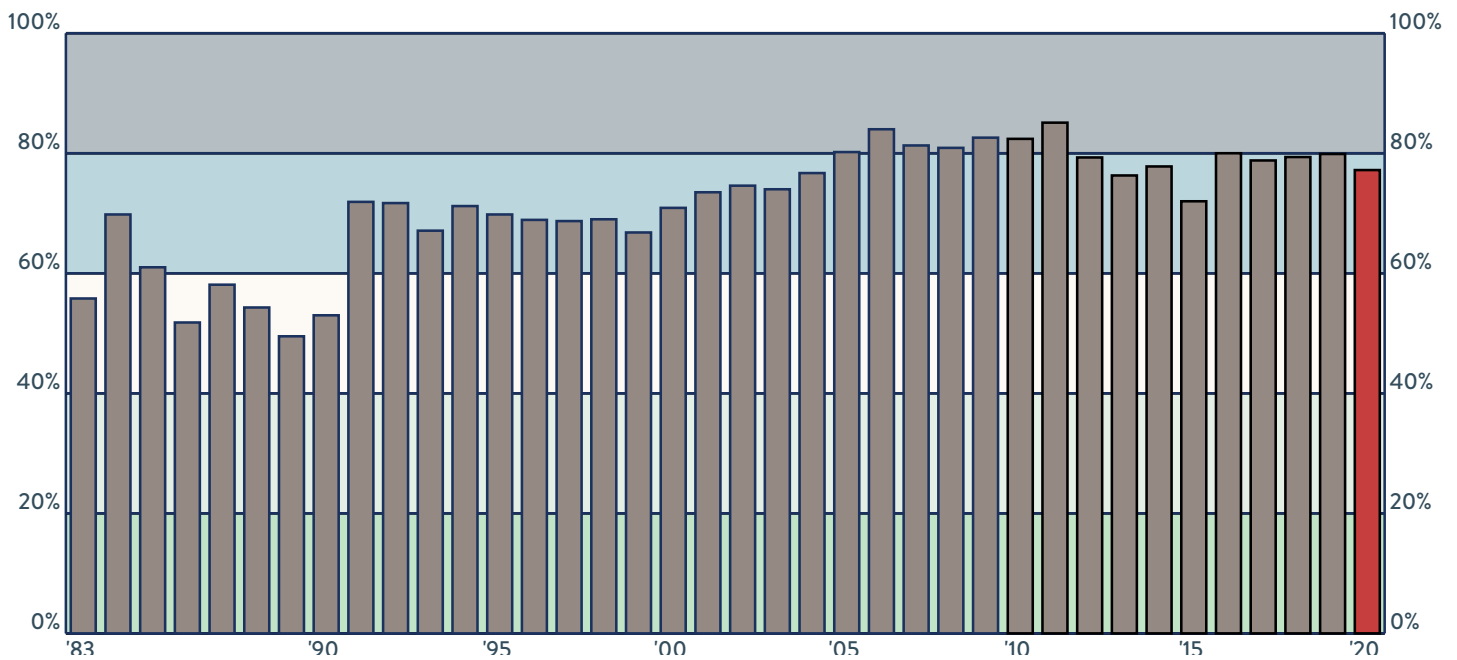


SCHOLAR IN-STATE DATA

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 2020 scholars, the most recent year for which data is available, 77.2% enrolled at a Kentucky college or university in the fall of 2021.



PERMANENT RESIDENCE

As of September 2022, 34,900 students have completed the Governor’s Scholars Program. The Program currently has valid contact information on file for 27,977 living alumni.

Of those alumni, 23,287—**83%**—have a permanent address within Kentucky.



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For more information or to make a contribution, contact:

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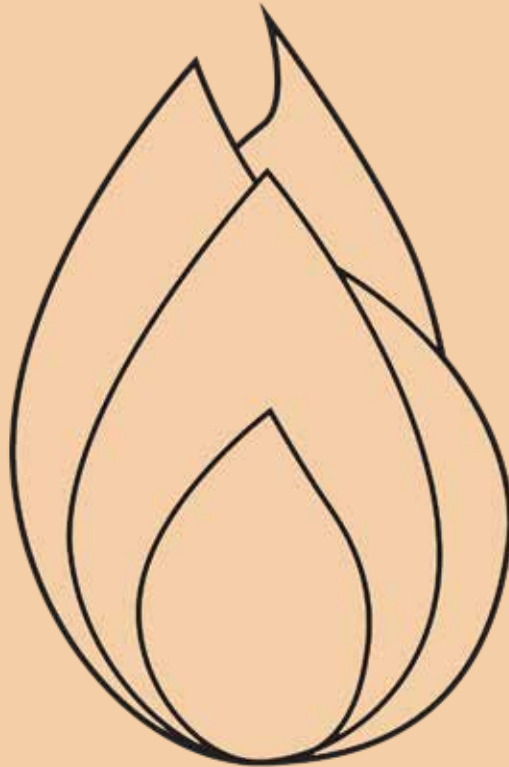
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