

2019 academic report

governor's scholars program



alumni day
july 13, 2019

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from the executive director

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

The 37th summer of the GSP represents a milestone in the trajectory of our beloved Program. It was a summer to renovate our commitment to the intellectual, academic, and personal growth of young leaders and maintain the unity of our learning community as “one program on three sites.”

It was also a summer to honor the past and reconnect our alumni's achievements with the bright future of many new generations to be served by the GSP. On June 13, more than 1,100 scholars—both past and present—all gathered together on Centre College's campus for Alumni Day. Although Alumni Day has been a recurring event on our three campuses, for the first time this year we united the scholars in one place to meet with GSP alumni who have become

leaders throughout our Commonwealth. Over 30 alumni spoke to scholars about their professional journeys, and each of them credited their GSP experience as an essential springboard for their success. As several of the alumni explained, GSP equipped them with unique tools for succeeding in college and beyond: It gave them an appreciation for what makes Kentucky so valuable and furnished a network of friends who shared their desire to enrich the Commonwealth. Our alumni speakers explained how GSP helped them arrive at college with a conviction to change the world and provided the tools to do so.

Hearing these testimonies and witnessing the interactions among current and past scholars, I saw the essence of why this program exists. The imprint of GSP doesn't disappear after five weeks each summer. It is sustained within its participants for decades to come, fueling both their personal and professional journeys.

Appropriately, the campus where we all gathered for Alumni Day holds a special place in GSP history itself. In 1983, Centre College was the first Kentucky institution ever to host the Governor's Scholars Program. To have this event on Centre's campus showcased how the bonds between GSP and the communities it touches have remained strong since the program's inception.

Our program's mission is to enhance Kentucky's next generation of civic and economic leaders. “By hearing from so many GSP alumni who represent the fulfillment of this mission every day throughout our Commonwealth, I am reminded of why this program is so vital to the future of Kentucky. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.




Aris Cedeño
Executive Director & Academic Dean

2019 scholars by county

Counties with up to 3 Governor's Scholars in 2019

Adair	Breckinridge	Cumberland	Hancock	Lee	McCreary	Owen	Todd*
Allen	Butler	Edmonson	Harrison	Leslie	McLean	Owsley	Trimble
Ballard	Carlisle	Elliott	Hart	Lewis	Menifee	Pendleton	Union
Bath	Carroll	Estill	Henry	Livingston	Mercer	Powell	Washington
Bell	Carter	Fulton	Jackson	Lyon	Metcalf	Robertson*	Webster
Bourbon	Clay	Gallatin	Knott	Magoffin	Monroe	Rockcastle	Wayne
Bracken	Clinton	Grayson	Knox	Martin	Morgan	Russell	
Breathitt	Crittenden	Green	Lawrence	Mason	Nicholas	Simpson	

4 - 6 Scholars

Anderson	Letcher
Caldwell	Lincoln
Casey	Logan
Clark	Marion
Floyd	Ohio
Harlan	Perry
Henderson	Rowan
Hickman	Trigg
Johnson	Whitley
LaRue	Wolfe

7 - 9 Scholars

Barren	Greenup
Boyd	Montgomery
Calloway	Shelby
Fleming	Spencer
Garrard	Taylor
Grant	Woodford

15 - 25 Scholars

Campbell	Laurel
Christian	McCracken
Daviess	Nelson
Franklin	Oldham
Graves	Pulaski
Hardin	Scott
Jessamine	

51 - 100

Fayette
Kenton

150+

Jefferson

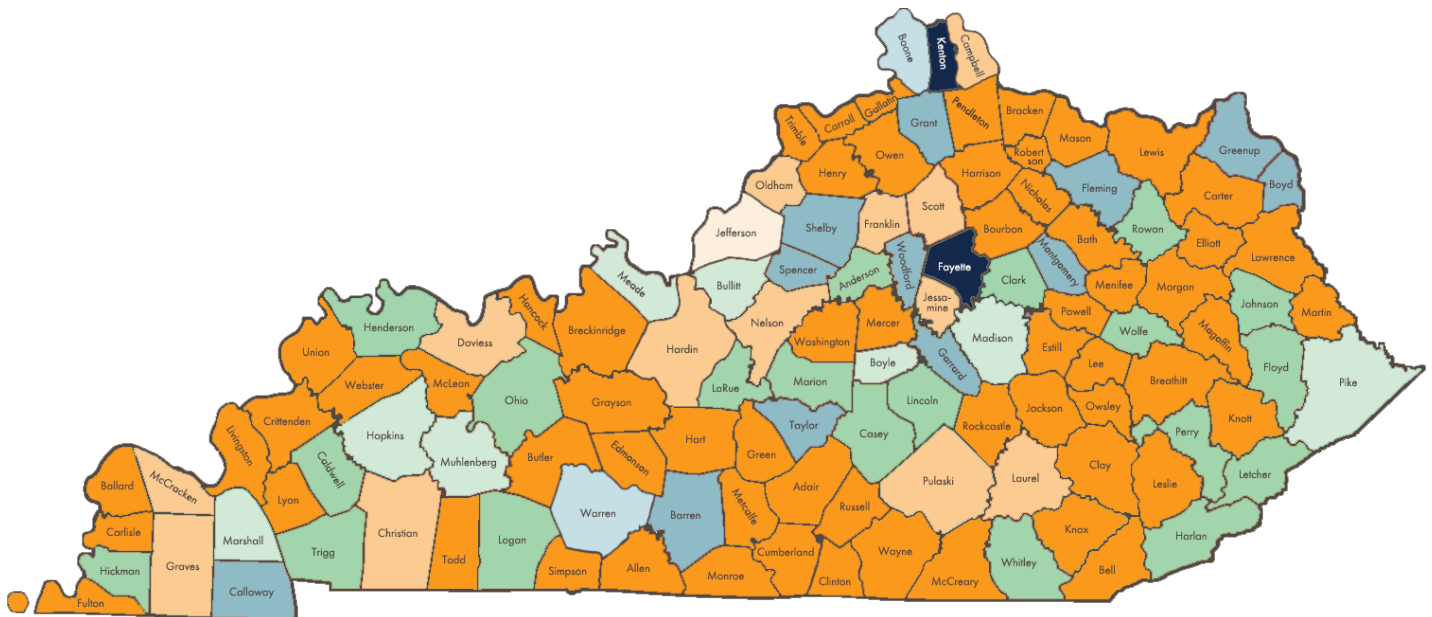
10 - 14 Scholars

Boyle	Marshall
Bullitt	Meade
Hopkins	Muhlenberg
Madison	Pike

26 - 50 Scholars

Boone Warren

*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



Morehead State University

At the beginning of the summer, **Nancy Gift** asked her scholars to pose the big agricultural questions they think we should be asking. These questions then became the guiding framework for the class.

Pamela Ronald and Raoul W.

Adamchak's book *Tomorrow's Table* and Kristin Kimball's *The Dirty Life* helped answer scholars' questions about genetically modified crops, organic food, and farm product marketing. They learned about agricultural labor while picking blueberries and weeding blackberries for the Morehead State Agricultural Station, and they explored soils through samples taken in class and using U.S. soil maps online. Scholars even pulled, identified, and sometimes tasted weeds on campus.

Through these activities and class discussions, scholars realized that feeding our ever-growing population on Earth will require land management and conservation, possible dietary changes for humans and livestock, and increased global food equity and access.

Left: GSP-Morehead scholars weed campus flower beds to learn how to identify what is a weed, what isn't—and what might even be edible. **Right:** Scholars ask questions of sellers at the Rowan County Farmers' Market before choosing where to purchase their lunch.

architectural design

“Prior to GSP, I viewed a career in architecture simply as a way to create cool houses, but now I see architecture as a tool to help others create community.”

— Kyle McComis
Paul G. Blazer High School

GSP-Centre scholars explore the exhibits at architect Zaha Hadid’s famous Cincinnati Contemporary Art Center, which is claimed to be one of the most significant 21st-century American buildings.

Centre College

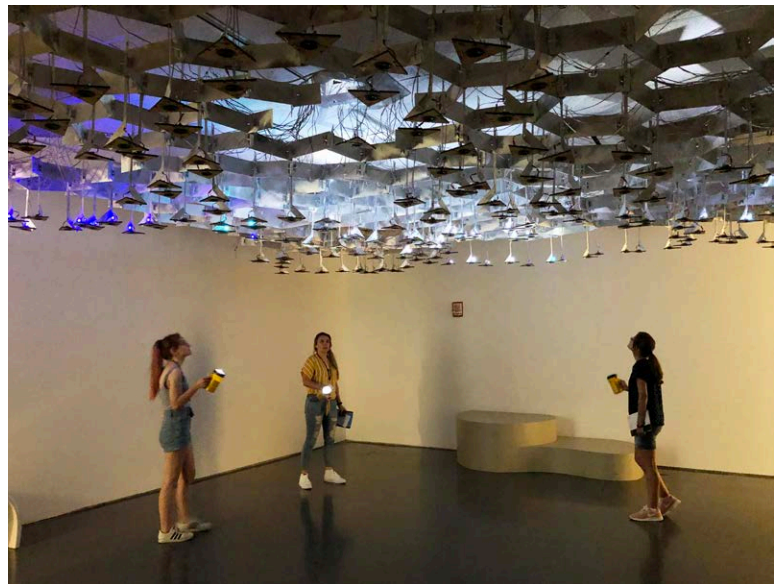
Ethan Morris challenged his scholars to design cities for the future, where people from diverse cultural, religious, ethnic, racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds can peacefully live together. The class studied gentrification, redlining, the location of police forces, and the allocation of public funds as examples of present-day conflicts that arise in urban settings. Scholars even toured downtown Cincinnati, examining older forms of urban planning and discussing what strategies seemed to produce societal conflict or cohesion.

After discussing the origins of urban conflict, the class researched how current architects are attempting to create cities that bring diverse people together rather than split them apart. Scholars then used these architects’ work, in fields such as affordable housing, mobile housing, mixed-use buildings, so-called “hostile” architecture, and public transportation, to create their own unique visions of a positive urban future.

Morehead State University

Dewey Kinkade’s scholars read selections from Bill Bryson’s *At Home* to explore the history of living space and Andrew Ballantyne’s *Architecture: A Very Short Introduction* for an overview of the discipline of architecture. The class then toured the Speed Art Museum with architect Chris Fuller, who worked on the building’s redesign, to learn how design principles come to life in the real world.

Putting their own creativity to work, Kinkade’s scholars undertook a number of construction and design projects. Their first challenge was to use cardboard boxes and duct tape to construct a play area for children during Morehead’s Freedom Fest. Then scholars worked with wood to build tables, chairs, and any other creation that combined a specific function with a unique form. Finally, scholars assisted with a Habitat for Humanity project in Menifee County to learn about both the technical and social value of a home.



astronomy

Bellarmino University

Scholars in **Rico Tyler's** class began their summer with the most important resource an astronomer can have: clear weather. During the first week, scholars had their first late-night observation and astrophotography session using telescopes built in class. Next, they devoted class time to understanding the motions of the night sky—skills the class would need to host the annual “star party” so that the entire GSP-Bellarmino community could learn about astronomy.

Later in the summer, the class considered the relationship between time and astronomy using activities to discover the astronomical alignments of cathedrals and the mathematics behind Easter. Each scholar also learned how to make and use a sundial. In the final week, scholars proposed topics of study for the entire class to explore together, including black holes, cosmology, dark matter, space, and interstellar travel.

Morehead State University

Tyler Harris's scholars examined why we hold certain beliefs about our world and the universe. The class toured the Morehead State University Space Science Center with Dr. Ben Malphrus and held a Q&A about the lunar ice cube mission being conducted in collaboration with NASA. The class also visited the planetarium and learned about career opportunities in Kentucky's growing aerospace industry.

Getting hands-on, scholars built their own telescopes using items found at any hardware store. The scholars then used these telescopes throughout the summer to observe various objects in the night sky, including the moon's craters, Saturn's rings, and Jupiter's moons.

Left: GSP-Morehead scholars set up a large telescope for the campus-wide “star party.” Right: Scholars pose with the telescopes they built in class using simple materials.



“This class embodied the community culture that GSP encourages. With wonderful instructors and peers, I found my home.”

— Alex Wesley
Scott County High School

biological & environmental issues

Bellarmino University

Greg Smith's class centered on the theme of "Survive to Thrive." First, scholars tested stream water and researched how to make it drinkable. They also studied food production and found that most Kentucky crops are grown on family farms and that buying local helps reduce transportation costs and pollution. A camping trip showed scholars how hard it is to carry your own water supply and cook all of your meals over a campfire.

To help their local community better thrive, the class dug out and replaced a drainage pipe on Bellarmine University's campus to lessen erosion and preserve the soil for the future.

Right: A GSP-Bellarmino scholar studies wasp eggs under a microscope.



Centre College

Thomas Reed's scholars researched current biological and environmental issues pertinent to the near future, including sustainability, climate change, genetic engineering, birthing restrictions, and bringing back extinct species. They used their research into current sustainability solutions to develop a project that they

could apply within their home schools or community.

The class also visited a number of organizations and companies in Kentucky, including FoodChain and the Arboretum in Lexington, Ephraim McDowell Hospital in Danville, and Cherokee Park and the J. B. Speed School of Engineering in Louisville.



Morehead State University

Greg Jacobelli's Focus Area worked to answer two questions: Are humans still a traditional part of nature, and, if we are, what is our niche?

The class first looked at some of our more common interactions with nature, such as how we dispose of our waste and how we use nature for sustenance. They visited Morehead's Water Treatment Facility, where Plant Superintendent Phillip Adkins explained how the facility worked and where Morehead's water originates. Next, scholars traveled to the Morgan County Tree Farm, where Scott Friedhoff discussed invasive species and how humans spread them. The class also traveled to Berea College to learn how to live more sustainably with the environment without losing modern-day conveniences. Scholars toured Berea College's sustainable village and explored alternative energy and alternative housing.

Back in the classroom, scholars kept all of this in mind as they explored solutions for a more sustainable path—a path where humans are a more positive contributor to nature.

Left: GSP-Morehead scholars take samples of naturally filtered water near Carter Caves in Eastern Kentucky.

business, accounting, & entrepreneurship

Bellarmino University

Kent Gregory's Focus Area began the summer by learning about foundational business skills, such as how to calculate “net present value” and the “internal rate of return,” and why they are important when making investment decisions and business plans. Once the scholars had these basic skills, they divided into groups to construct and storyboard business plans that were presented in the final week of the session.

Interspersed with these business-building projects, the class visited with John Sweeney, managing director of business owner solutions at Hilliard Lyons; the senior leadership team at Brown-Forman, including Matt Hamel (executive vice president and general counsel), Lawson Whiting (president and chief executive officer), and Alex Alvarez (chief of production); and Hosea Mitchell, the chief operating officer of The Center for African American Heritage.

Centre College

Throughout the summer, **Scott Takacs** and his scholars looked at how business could make the world a better place, considering topics ranging from personal finance to real estate to cryptocurrency.

They personally witnessed how Kentucky businesses contribute positively to the world during trips to the R. J. Corman headquarters in Nicholasville, where scholars learned how a business could grow from a small transportation construction business to an important part of the transportation sector, and to Logan Aluminum in Russellville, where they saw how recycled beverage containers transform into rolled aluminum ready for use as new beverage cans.

Morehead State University

Melony Shemberger and her scholars used Simon Sinek's book *Start With Why* as the framework to examine how to apply innovative, profitable methods to develop products and minimize problems. Scholars participated in a culminating project in which teams created a business plan for tackling an identified need or problem. Scholars designed their business plans on large-format posters that were presented on campus.

Equipped with new information on successful business practices, scholars traveled with the Agribusiness & Biotechnology class to Boone Creek Creamery, a “Kentucky Proud” cheese store and factory in Lexington. They learned about the cheese-making process and business operations. In addition, the scholars then traveled to R. J. Corman Railroad Group in Nicholasville for lessons on the transportation industry and spoke with company officials on how the rail system remains vital for commerce.

“Before this class, I had always thought that creating a successful business was an impossible dream. Thanks to this opportunity, I’ve found so many ways I can start my own.”

— **Abraham Alhamdani**
Franklin County High School

communication & social theory

Bellarmino University

Using Susan Cain's book *Quiet: The Power of Introverts In a World That Can't Stop Talking* as a framework, **Tim Phelps** and his scholars studied the communication skills that hold prestige and influence in our society while practicing control over those skills themselves. They participated in a "day of silence" and then visited the Abbey of Gethsemani near Bardstown, where they reflected on the calmer and quieter lifestyles that the members of the abbey have chosen.

Scholars then collaborated with the Journalism & Mass Media class and the Film Studies class to design a realistic press conference. The classes agreed on scenarios, researched their topics, and spent a day under the scrutiny of the public eye. To prepare, scholars studied press secretaries and met with prominent guest speakers, such as U.S. Representative John Yarmuth.

"This class showed me that communication is just as much about listening as it is about speaking."

— **Emma Bayens**
Louisville Male High School

Centre College

Cher Reynolds's class tackled a variety of issues related to how we communicate. Scholars spent an entire day not using their voices to experience how gestures, facial expressions, body language, the written word, and active listening are just as crucial as spoken language to human interaction. On a trip to 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville, scholars toured the exhibit "Labor & Materials" to explore how artists communicate their beliefs about humans' relationships with work. They



After a demonstration, GSP-Centre scholars practice making simple Native American drills to bore into stone.

also got to experience for themselves the pressure under which public relations professionals work by participating in a mock press conference on campus. During the event, scholars took turns responding to fictional crises created by their fellow classmates. Finally, after critiquing public health posters and service announcements, scholars researched health topics and then wrote, shot, and edited PSAs to address problems they felt were relevant to teenagers.

creative writing & literary studies

Bellarmino University

Frank Ward's class focused on the concept of the professional writer's experience, both historical and contemporary. First, scholars met with local writers, including playwright Nancy Gall Clayton, mystery writer Bill Noel, and science fiction novelist Carolyn Clowes, to understand the practical challenges of writing as a vocation and profession. Then, the class began generating works of their own, culminating in a class project in which they generated a book of collected writing. The book was published in-house with the assistance of Bellarmine University and is slated for online publication through Amazon this coming fall.

Centre College

Scholars in **Jay Crocker's** class explored the concept of home and how it influences us. The class began by looking at how writers such as Alice Walker and Kate Chopin have depicted houses in poetry and prose throughout the past few centuries. They visited historic homes throughout Kentucky to see how the concept of home has changed architecturally, and they examined the effects of homelessness in the world through a photo exhibit at the Muhammad Ali Peace Center.

Scholars used the study of individual rooms in their homes as inspiration for their writing. For example, scholars who selected the nursery were inspired to write about childhood and fantasy, while the kitchen and dining areas challenged scholars to focus on time spent engaged with others.

Morehead State University

Concentrating on the sensory tools that writers rely upon, Ron Reed's scholars expanded their senses of sight and hearing to inform their writing. For instance, the scholars attended the Cincinnati Opera's production of *Romeo and Juliet* and discussed their experiences of paying close attention to the senses when making or viewing art. They also attended a poetry workshop created by Sarah Combs, a 1994 GSP graduate, with special attention paid to sensory input.

Later in the summer, the class organized two coffeehouse opportunities so that anyone in the GSP-Morehead community could read works they had written. They also collaborated with the Music Theory & Performance class to write and perform a piece for the campus in the final week of the program.



Top: GSP-Centre scholars find writing inspiration in an exhibit at the 21c Museum Hotel. **Bottom:** A GSP-Bellarmino scholar develops a narrative based on a painting at the Speed Art Museum.

cultural anthropology

Bellarmino University

Ellen Mitchell's Focus Area developed and applied cooperative leadership to plan and execute a campus-wide Multicultural Fair. The scholar-led event showcased the diversity of the GSP-Bellarmino community through a traditional-clothing fashion show, performing arts recital, hands-on activities, and Bollywood dance finale.

Scholars also learned how to identify hierarchies, group norms, and social taboos by examining selected excerpts of David Graeber's book *Possibilities*. Members of the class presented analyses of concepts including capitalism-as-slavery, direct democratic activism, consensus decision making, and the gender spectrum. Finally, they took these newfound ideas into the "field" and examined local socioeconomic stratification by participating in a neighborhood revitalization project in Louisville's Portland neighborhood.

"I have learned to think more deeply, speak more thoughtfully, and listen more openly."

— Lucy Swenson
Owensboro High School

Morehead State University

Shawna Felkins asked her scholars to question the concept of culture from the local to the global, specifically examining how cultural artifacts often shape our perception about places and communities. To do this, they learned the basic skills of an anthropologist by collecting field notes and practicing research skills to create presentations of unfamiliar cultures around the world. Scholars visited the Kentucky Folk Art Center and Cincinnati Art Museum to study artifacts of culture and the stories they tell.

They were also challenged to be critical of culture abroad and at home through discussions of contemporary issues. They screened the documentary

The Hunting Ground and discussed "rape culture" and victims' advocacy with Gretchen Hunt, head of the Kentucky Attorney General's Office of Victims Advocacy. They read and discussed the graphic novel *Persepolis* to study the Iranian Revolution and examine how histories shape our understanding of past and present cultures outside of the United States.

Scholars also created a campus-wide time capsule, gathering artifacts from other courses on campus, writing archaeological tags to catalog their findings, and storing them to be opened and shared with the community at their reunion.

dramatic expression

GSP-Centre scholars look over all of the source material they collected to create an original piece of theatre based on the theme of “home.”



Bellarmino University

Scholars in **Michelle Salerno's** class staged the play *Anon(ymous)* by Naomi Iizuka for the GSP-Bellarmino community. This American adaptation of *The Odyssey* merges the ancient Greek narrative of homecoming with depictions of refugees and immigrants making their way in various American locations. With the help of Homer's epic poem, scholars delved into Iizuka's central subjects: journey, memory, and home. The class cast themselves in the production and took on various roles, including musicians, costume and set designers, researchers, and assistant directors. The text challenged scholars to engage with their personal journey of discovery as they worked to understand the journeys of the characters.

Centre College

Melanie Kidwell's class focused on the word “home,” and scholars built an original piece of theatre for the community that explored as many different aspects of the word as possible.

Scholars began by collecting all the thoughts, feelings, and connections that the word “home” evoked, such as comfort, dysfunction, family, history, culture, and belonging. Then, the class collected compelling source material centered around the theme, including personal responses, news stories, literary pieces, photographs, and interviews.

Next, scholars considered how to turn their source material into a story that would work on stage. This required that scholars think creatively about how to paint a picture on stage, how to most effectively use their voices and physical bodies to communicate, and how to inhabit a character that was different than themselves. The scholars' work culminated in a performance for the GSP-Centre community.



engineering

Bellarmino University

Denise Owens and **Jeremy White** led their scholars on an investigation into the role of engineering in today's world. After visiting a solar farm, the scholars met several engineers who discussed future possibilities with renewable energy. They later toured McAlpine Locks and Dam in Louisville, where they participated in a bridge design project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That was followed by a visit to Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky (TMMK) and Georgetown College, where the scholars participated in an engineering problem solving activity led by a team of engineers from TMMK. They also visited the GE Appliance Park, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, and Lexmark of Kentucky. To uncover the pathway to an engineering career, Owens and White took their classes on tours of the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville Colleges of Engineering.

Back in the classroom, scholars met with guest speakers (many of whom were former GSP scholars) from an array of engineering specialties, including chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical, and structural. Finally, the scholars participated in an in-class design project. They were able to implement skills gained from these guest speakers and field trips to help them design, construct, and present a variety of engineering projects.



Top: GSP-Bellarmino scholars complete a civil engineering project while visiting McAlpine Locks and Dam.

Bottom left: Classes pose together while visiting the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky plant.

Bottom right: Scholars participate in a mechanical engineering project while visiting Georgetown College.

film studies

Bellarmino University

Craig Miller's class asked themselves: What makes a well-told story? They studied visual storytelling, exploring how the use of cameras and lighting can support a film's narrative. They also critiqued films and identified the elements necessary to execute individual narrative moments. With these new skills, the class replicated master techniques with their own equipment.

As a culminating project, scholars filmed and edited their own stories through the prism of their personal GSP experience to exercise what they had learned throughout the summer.

“Film Studies has allowed me to learn as I create.”

— Hank Sutherland
Sutherland Home School

Morehead State University

Scholars in **Jason Meenach's** class first learned the basics of framing and composing a shot, how to build and use a green screen, and how to edit and use popular film software. After practicing their new skills by producing original short films, the class participated in a 48-hour film festival. All of their work was showcased for the community so they could have the experience of an authentic audience reacting to their work. Along the way, scholars encountered various challenges that inspired them to figure out how to optimize film graphics and sound quality and how to create special effects in order to produce a professional product that an outside audience would enjoy.

Top: GSP-Bellarmino scholars produce a mock cable news livestream for campus. **Bottom:** GSP-Morehead scholars build a green screen for their film projects.



forensic science

Bellarmino University

Jim Seaver's scholars studied the many law enforcement agencies that conduct investigations and fight crime, particularly the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service. Scholars visited the FBI's main Kentucky office in Louisville and met with Secret Service personnel to learn about the nature of their work, the public myths about what they do, and how to prepare for careers in the field.

Back in the classroom, scholars studied the basics and limitations of specialties like forensic dentistry, firearms and ballistics analysis, and police interrogation tactics. These pursuits gained new relevance during trips to the Kentucky State Police's Central Forensic Laboratory in Frankfort and Bellarmino University's cadaver lab to meet with an anatomy professor who frequently provides courtroom testimony as an expert witness.

Centre College

Scholars in **Joey Budd's** Focus Area examined criminal cases in which forensics helped exonerate convicted individuals as well as cases in which forensics aided convictions that were later overturned. The class visited the Kentucky State Police forensic laboratories to learn how evidence from toxicology, ballistics, and fingerprinting is processed. They also visited with the Office of the Attorney General's Cyber Crimes Unit, where scholars learned how investigators use computer forensics to catch online predators.

On campus, the class visited with police dogs trained to detect explosives and other items of interest to investigators. Cadaver dogs also visited the class to demonstrate how the specially trained animals can detect even a small drop of blood.

Combining the advice from guest speakers and their in-class research on the many roles of forensic scientists, scholars processed a fake crime scene and practiced identifying remains and artifacts.

Morehead State University

Kris Kropp's scholars practiced the techniques used by police and forensic scientists to solve murder cases. Officer Bryant Furman of the Morehead Police Department discussed the meticulous nature of evidence collection, processing, and storage, as well as the importance of the chain of custody for all collected evidence. He then demonstrated fingerprint collection and assisted scholars in "lifting" their own prints. Scholars then learned how tool marks, blood spatter, handwriting analysis, and DNA can all be used to either incriminate or exonerate defendants during an investigation.

As a final project, Officer Furman set up a mock crime scene for scholars to solve. They even interviewed a witness and suspect to help uncover the truth before submitting their written report.



Top: GSP-Bellarmino scholars dust fingerprints during a simulated crime scene exercise.

Middle: GSP-Centre scholars visit with police dogs to witness how they track down evidence that can be undetectable to humans.

Bottom: GSP-Morehead scholars extract DNA from bananas.

healthcare industry

Bellarmino University

Stephen Buchholz's scholars considered the definition and value of public health. After identifying five issues that were meaningful to them—mental health, opioid addiction, blood donation, underage drug use, and vaccines—scholars created commercials to further educate the GSP-Bellarmino community.

The class also visited the University of Louisville's Cardiovascular Innovation Institute to explore the cutting edge of aerospace surgical techniques and heart failure research. Scholars explored non-traditional healthcare-related careers by visiting a chiropractor, two Bellarmino professors of anatomy, and visitors from the Kentucky Organ Donors Affiliates. The class then discussed the complexity of health insurance and visited an insurance agent to familiarize themselves with the process and prepare themselves for adulthood.

With this array of experience, scholars were challenged at the end of the summer to advocate for a patient waiting on a transplant list and confront the ethical dilemmas in organ donation and transplantation.

Centre College

Jamie Hester's class explored the Harvard Study of Adult Development, which began in 1938, to track the development of modern medicine and spark ideas for improving the healthcare system, especially considering the aging population. Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal* aided their conversations by focusing their attention not only on the medical side of healthcare but also on building relationships with patients and learning that "hard conversations" are necessary. Scholars further explored healthcare history and advancement during visits to the Ephraim McDowell House and Museum, the University of Kentucky's Frazier Outreach Center, and the Rockcastle Regional Hospital.

GSP-Morehead scholars visit a local hospital to practice suturing techniques and other basic procedures.



Morehead State University

Cindy Brainard's class took a close look at major pandemics that claimed large numbers of human life before a treatment or cure could be discovered. Using Sonia Shah's *Pandemic*, scholars researched and traced the spread of specific pathogens from "ground zero" to their ultimate confinement or control. They prepared scientific research posters to share their information with the GSP-Morehead community.

The class also looked at the pharmaceutical industry and the patent laws that govern it. Through their research, scholars uncovered legal loopholes used by some companies that can hurt patients who need medications but can no longer afford them.

"This class did two things for us: It lit a fire in us to pursue a career in health and made that fire stronger."

— Jaedyn Embry, Moore High School

historical analysis

Bellarmino University

Kyle Jones and his scholars explored the confluence of factors (social, political, economic, and military) that underpin impressions of “the 60s.” Their study of the era helped scholars answer the summer’s central question: To what extent are we living in the next “60s”? Senator Mitch McConnell and Representative Attica Scott spoke with the class about their own impressions of the notorious decade, reaching back for historical examples to support their arguments.

Scholars also took several opportunities to “do history,” including a large-scale project at the Frazier History Museum, where they conducted oral histories with prominent female community leaders. The oral histories were published through the “What Is a Vote Worth?” project, which is a year-long, statewide celebration of women-activists affecting change throughout the Commonwealth.

Embracing the complexities and difficulties of historical analysis, scholars wrote and delivered speeches in the final week that drew from the events of the 60s, the events of their GSP experience, and their changing perspectives on “doing history.”

Centre College

Sara Loy’s Focus Area explored how magic—and its many manifestations throughout history—has shaped the society we live in today. Scholars first considered the many things they knew about magic, from fairy tales and *Harry Potter* to probability and prophesizing. They then considered why people would use and believe in magic at all. During a trip to the Kentucky Historical Society, curators took scholars through the archives to see how Kentuckians have traditionally enacted magical thinking. This led to conversations about how place influences our beliefs, and when a local professor of dramatic arts took scholars to the stage, they discovered how bodies in space impacted their interactions with the world.

Scholars also became detectives of history, investigating the online archives of the Salem witch trials. Split into prosecution, defense, and jury, they put on a mock trial, researching real people and the psychology of mass hysteria.

GSP-Bellarmino scholars conduct an oral history of Dolores Delahanty, founding member of the National Women’s Political Caucus, at the Frazier History Museum.

“This class helped me to explore the identity of our nation in the absence of boundaries, allowing me to form my own conclusions and convictions.”

— Kennedy Jones
Boyd County High School



international relations

Bellarmino University

In **Ogechi Anyanwu's** Focus Area, scholars explored international themes such as sanctions, immigration, multinational corporations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Cold War's enduring impact on global politics. The class also hosted Darren Streblick, the chief trade officer of the World Trade Center Kentucky, who spoke on the challenges of trade in a globalizing world.

To further expand their views on global issues, scholars watched several documentaries such as *Stealing Africa* and *Nike Sweatshops: Behind the Swoosh*. These documentaries, coupled with class lectures and discussions, helped the scholars better understand how power, principle, and pragmatism influence the pursuit of interests in the international arena.

GSP-Centre scholars assume roles as members of the U.S. National Security Council and advisory bodies in Colombia and China to debate international diplomacy.

Centre College

Frank Russell's class began by exploring theoretical frameworks for understanding the nature of nations and states. One approach was to consider the impact of geography on individual and regional economic development and security. The class read and discussed Tim Marshall's *Prisoners of Geography* and applied its insights to particular regional concerns, especially in East Asia and South America. Scholars became particularly interested in the contested presidency of Venezuela and its impact on Colombian, Chinese, and American interests and ideals.

Adapting the framework provided by the Council on Foreign Relations' Model Diplomacy exercises, the scholars assumed roles as members of the U.S. National Security Council and comparable advisory bodies in Colombia and China. They researched and developed strategies for accommodating the influx of refugees into Colombia, avoiding default on Chinese loans, and protecting American security interests in the region.



journalism & mass media

Bellarmino University

Bella Ezumah's scholars reviewed the history of journalism and concepts that shape news gathering, selection, dissemination, and consumption. To get a first-hand look at the media industry, scholars visited two Louisville television stations, the WLKY-CBS affiliate and WDRM-Fox affiliate. They met the stations' anchors, news directors, meteorologists, and station managers and spent the day observing live news broadcasts.

Putting this information into practice, scholars gathered news pertinent to the GSP-Bellarmino community and launched an interactive website, which was updated weekly with articles, video clips, pictures, and vlogs. Scholars also collaborated with the Communication and Social Theory class to stage a campus-wide press conference on current political and social issues.



Left: GSP-Bellarmino scholars ask tough questions at a mock press event in collaboration with the Communication & Social Theory and Film Studies classes. **Right:** GSP-Centre scholars edit videos for their publication, *The GSPaper*.

“This class helped me identify what I want to do and who I want to be.”

— **Kierra Wilson**
Eastern High School

Centre College

To hone their reporting skills, **Hayley Hoffman's** scholars founded their own online weekly newspaper, *The GSPaper*. Their stories recorded the happenings of the GSP-Centre community, from campus-wide sports tournaments, to showcase performances, to the inner workings of the campus director's office. Each scholar contributed at least two items per week to *The GSPaper*, which created an online collection of stories, videos, and photos permanently documenting the 2019 GSP-Centre experience.

Each scholar also created a video collage about their first weekend on campus, a photo collection that showcased items from the GSP-Centre community, a playlist of podcasts documenting the communities to which they belong, and a photo album representing their growth throughout the program.

modes of mathematical thinking

Centre College

Were numbers created or invented?

This was the driving question of **Will Garcia's** Focus Area. To answer it, scholars looked for numbers in nature by using phi, or the golden ratio. During their search, scholars realized they only had to step outside to find evidence: In the trees on Centre College's campus, the class found evidence of the golden ratio.

They also investigated Boolean algebra, used ciphers to send coded messages to each other, and explored the "Nash equilibrium" in the Prisoners' Dilemma. Through the study of these concepts and others, scholars saw that math can act as an essential lens that helps us better understand the world.

A GSP-Centre scholar looks for the "golden ratio" in the patterns of tree branches and other natural elements.

Morehead State University

Jason Dooley's Focus Area delved into game theory and probability, and scholars learned how mathematicians and computer scientists are using game theory to teach computers to play games such as chess and poker. Dooley's scholars learned to apply the rules of probability to minimize variance in games of chance and worked to develop game strategies based on what they had learned in class.

Outside the classroom, scholars participated in the 2019 Kentucky Youth Science Summit in Louisville, toured the occupational therapy and bio-informatics labs at Spalding University, and discussed lasers and optics with professors from the University of Louisville. The class also participated in a "speed-mentoring" session in which they met professionals in the STEM field to discuss potential projects.



music theory & performance

Centre College

Chris Wheeler challenged his class to create music that was unique to their GSP experience. The scholars wrote original songs and improvised melodies to create compositions that could not be replicated outside of their particular classroom and their particular blend of sounds and talents.

Members of the class also taught each other new instruments through coordinated peer-teaching. This allowed scholars to experience a new musical instrument, test their teaching skills, and reflect on

what effective teaching is. After these peer-teaching sessions, scholars presented their work for the class in an impromptu performance, highlighting the unnecessary fear of having fully-polished work before performing.

In exploring the musical heritage of Kentucky, scholars wrote their own brand of folk songs to help communicate their GSP experience to an audience. These entirely original songs incorporated the whole class's talents and were eventually performed for the GSP-Centre community.

“GSP has allowed me the rare opportunity to make a deep connection with my peers through making music just for our hearts’ content, unsullied by the stress of competitive music.”

— **Jessica Miller**, Paul G. Blazer High School

Morehead State University

Tana Field's class focused on musical traditions and the concept of storytelling in music.

To prepare for a trip to the Cincinnati Opera, scholars considered the history of the Commedia dell'arte, stock characters, and operatic traditions. Scholars also pondered the role of music in film, beginning with music of the silent era and moving to the present day. The class visited a theater originally conceived for silent film with only an organ for accompaniment, now used as both a movie theater and a performing arts center.

Turning their attention locally, scholars learned about the rich musical history of Kentucky, with particular attention given to the Country Music Highway and artists of Eastern Kentucky. The class met with local professionals in the industry to discuss the benefits and challenges of careers in the music business, arts management, and performance.



GSP-Morehead scholars rehearse during class time.

philosophy

Bellarmino University

The theme of **Lisa Hicks's** Focus Area was "the self." Each week, scholars studied a different branch of philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics) and discussed how questions within that branch related to the self. To better explore these heavy concepts, Hicks and her scholars relied on a number of strategies, such as logic puzzles, debates, and small-group activities. They also completed short research projects to learn how different schools and philosophers approached big questions.

"Our class discussions were some of the most complex and interesting I've ever had."

— Kelly Oberst, Ryle High School

Morehead State University

John Wilcox and his scholars 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 questioned whether moral judgments could be true or false or whether all such judgments are opinions with no basis in the way things really are. The class also discussed Socrates's belief that the search for moral truth is the best way to develop the human soul. Using Socrates's famous claim that "unexamined life is not worth living," the class also explored the way in which the "examined life" for Socrates is not something individuals can pursue as solitary individuals; rather, it involves one's social nature as well.

physical science

Centre College

Harsh Upadhyay's class focused on designing and manufacturing tangible objects. They created Rube Goldberg innovations, which require intricate planning to execute a specific function. The class decided to modify the Rube Goldberg machine designed by last year's class, and they planned their own so that next year's class could inherit it and continue the legacy.

Morehead State University

John Clark's scholars investigated science phenomena through project-based learning. For example, the class studied the properties of fluids and buoyancy by designing, constructing, and testing a boat made from common household items. In addition, scholars interpreted the properties of household chemicals through techniques such as infrared spectroscopy. Alongside these hands-on experiences, scholars analyzed and discussed the effect of science on society through the use of lay articles and scholarly work.

GSP-Centre scholars carefully plan the intricate series of functions that their Rube Goldberg machine will execute.



political & legal issues

Bellarmine University

Derrick Staton introduced his class to the complexities of working in the political arena and the ingenuity required to succeed in the courtroom. Scholars began by learning the various roles an attorney must play in order to properly represent a client both inside and outside the courtroom. Each scholar then adopted a separate role in a mock trial and worked through all steps necessary for a jury trial, from opening to closing statements.

Scholars also had the chance to discuss the divisive political discourse throughout our nation and Commonwealth. They considered the roles of the media, politicians, educators, and students in trying to work towards the common good. Scholars also discussed the current political environment with leaders throughout the Commonwealth to develop ways in which people with opposing views can learn to entertain different points of view in an intellectual manner.

Centre College

John Powell challenged his scholars to consider the mythic nature of both the “American Dream” and the American political system, the latter with special reference to Abraham Lincoln’s political maneuvering in support of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Scholars explored the political position of African Americans from the colonial period to the present, using *The Atlantic* articles of Ta-Nehisi Coates as a fulcrum. This examination led into a study of “politics for kids,” investigating the possibility of more generally prioritizing the welfare of children in our politics and policies. These ideas were discussed in conversation with Senator Max Wise and Senator Morgan McGarvey in Frankfort, where they walked scholars through the process of passing the School Safety Act as a demonstration of the kind of bi-partisanship still possible at the state and local level.

GSP-Centre scholars visit the Capitol to discuss bipartisan initiatives with Senators Morgan McGarvey and Max Wise.



Morehead State University

Scholars in **Kim Reeder’s** class learned how a criminal case progresses through the U.S. legal system and how specific provisions in the Bill of Rights place limitations on this system. The class watched tapings from a Franklin County trial to identify how constitutional provisions affect jury selection, the introduction of evidence during a trial, and sentencing. At the end of the trial, the scholars acted as a jury for the defendant.

Scholars were able to further develop their understanding of the criminal justice system and constitutional protections by meeting with Franklin County Circuit Court Judge Phillip Shepherd, Rowan County District Court Judge Willie Roberts, Rowan County Assistant County Attorney Ashley Adkins, and Legal Aid attorney Ezra Dike, as well as touring the Rowan County Detention Center. Scholars also met with Morehead Mayor Laura White-Brown to develop a better understanding of the workings of the executive branch of government.

psychology & behavioral studies

Bellarmino University

Jodi Treadway's class examined the concept of authenticity and the "true self." Scholars first approached the question from a philosophical viewpoint, defining and debating the concept of authenticity, and then considered cognitive biases that often prevent us from seeing ourselves clearly. Scholars then looked at external factors influencing authenticity. Using examples from modern media, they looked at how we can all be manipulated using priming and framing techniques. Noted performer Gilda Wabbit spoke to the class about stage personas as a way of exploring professions where the authentic and the theatrical collide. Turning inward, scholars then contemplated their own personal journeys toward authenticity.

Centre College

Sarah Scott's class learned and practiced scientifically proven techniques to increase well-being and happiness. They focused on research in positive psychology related to neural plasticity, gratitude, physical health, social connectedness, physical and digital minimalism, resilience, and empathy. Scholars studied the World Happiness Report conducted by the United Nations and investigated why some countries have much higher average well-being than others. Each scholar researched a different country and presented their findings to the class. They took this information and created their own fictional countries they thought would optimize happiness for their citizens.

Morehead State University

Raven Mineo and her scholars explored the field of neuroplasticity and the controversy surrounding it. Through reading *The Brain That Changes Itself* by Norman Doidge, the class discovered the history of the field and how the intersection of politics, economics, and scientific research principles affected progress and outcomes. Scholars also discussed case studies related to particular neurological challenges and how the principles of plasticity were applied with positive results. Finally, scholars met with psychologists, health care experts, and mental health specialists to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing the realm of mental health and the various roles that psychologists fill within our society.

Adriane Hardin-Davis's scholars examined the topic of trauma through many different psychological and

"I will take away from GSP the knowledge that being who you are is much harder than being who you're not."

— Jack McClellan
Trinity High School

sociological lenses. Scholars began by discussing how childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences impact adults. To better understand how trauma is linked to substance abuse disorders, the scholars visited Voices of Hope in Lexington, where they learned how the center aids individuals in recovery from substance abuse disorders through community building, support groups, and therapeutic opportunities.

The class also learned self-care tools such as mindfulness. At Furnace Mountain Retreat Center, scholars heard from residential teachers about how meditative practice can help manage anxiety. The class also met clinical psychologist Dr. Janet Dean, who led a well-being workshop that inspired the class to explore how creative expression and play can reduce stress.

spanish language & culture



GSP-Centre scholars teach a science project to students at an ESL camp sponsored by Danville's Centro Latino.

Centre College

Scholars in **Clint Hendrix's** Focus Area explored current immigration polemics through a variety of lenses. They read Reyna Grande's memoir *The Distance Between Us*, studied art created by Hispanic-Americans, volunteered at a summer camp for Hispanic children, and discussed the history of the so-called border crisis.

For a better understanding of immigration in the community surrounding Centre College, scholars teamed with Danville's Centro Latino to create and implement activities in an ESL camp designed to help Danville Independent School students continue to practice their English skills over the summer. For this, scholars put themselves into groups that aligned with their other academic interests (e.g., math, art, science, and culture), then formed stations that different ages of ESL learners rotated through during the camp.

"I went from memorizing vocabulary and checking all of my sentences to understanding how dynamic and interesting Spanish and linguistics can be."

— Noah Ellis, McCracken County High School

Morehead State University

Jeff O'Field's scholars broadened their view of Hispanic culture through literature, film, guest speakers, music, and dance. They analyzed contemporary short fiction written by authors from each geographic region of Latin America, drawing on their knowledge of linguistics and literature to bring these stories to life in class discussions. They also visited regional community and art centers to gain awareness of the work of Hispanic leaders and artists in Kentucky and beyond.

Scholars immersed themselves in learning Spanish not only for their own enrichment but also to understand what the process is like for others learning a second language. With this experience in mind, they explored questions such as "What is the function of a lingua franca?" and "What is language justice and how can it be achieved?" They realized that in order to improve, one must be brave enough to make mistakes and then to learn from them—linguistic or otherwise.



“This Focus Area allowed me to take intellectual risks every day.”

— Elayne Fortner
Pineville High School



visual arts

Centre College

Jacqueline Bryan’s class embraced the ceramic medium, experimenting with techniques that are thousands of years old as well as modern styles of creating. Scholars used hand-building techniques to create all of their work while discussing and thinking about the relationship of art history to processes, themes, and styles. The scholars also collaborated to create an art piece celebrating their community using a range of media, including clay, sound, and photographs.

After discussing art movements, the class established their own movement called Solutionism, which advances art by having artists directly pose solutions to problems about which they are passionate. The scholars wrote their own art movement manifesto and followed it to create a work for the GSP-Centre community. A selection of their art was exhibited at the end of the summer.

Top: GSP-Centre scholars gather around the pit fire used while making their ceramic pieces.

Middle: Scholars study an exhibit at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center.

Bottom: Scholars mix glaze for their ceramics.



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 2019.

we shall overcome

Morehead State University

Adriane Hardin-Davis's class studied protests and social movements. They first examined how social movements are formed and how people organize themselves, such as during the Nashville Sit-Ins and the East Los Angeles student protests of the 1960s. Scholars also spoke with Peter Berres, a columnist from the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, about protests during the Vietnam War and his own experiences as a veteran and educator. Scholars then researched technology's role within modern social movements and protests.

The class also studied "counter-storytelling," which highlights stories of people whose experiences are not often told as a means of protest. To this end, scholars traveled to the media and education center Appalshop in Whitesburg to examine how filmmakers use multimedia to create authentic stories about Appalachia.

frontiers

Bellarmino University

Kent Gregory's class examined frontiers of many kinds. They began by reading C.R. Whittaker's *Frontiers of the Roman Empire: A Social and Economic Study*, which revealed new ways to conceptualize frontiers, whether geopolitical, sociocultural, or artistic. The class then explored musical frontiers with the help of Miles Davis's groundbreaking *Kind of Blue* album. Expanding their focus to visual art, scholars discussed creators such as Cimabue and Jackson Pollock and even created a Pollock-style splatter-drip painting measuring 4.5'x 19'. During the final week, scholars delivered presentations on their self-selected frontiers in the realms of the environment, space, society, culture politics.

disasterpiece theatre

Centre College

Scholars in **Cher Reynolds's** class used Lucy Jones's book *The Big Ones: How Natural Disasters Have Shaped Us (and What We Can Do about Them)* as a guide through a global history of how natural disasters have shaped landscapes, politics, religion, and more. Scholars traveled to Boyle County Emergency Medical Services to meet with paramedics and EMTs, practice hands-only CPR techniques on a dummy, and tour an ambulance. The class also visited Louisville MetroSafe, where they were able to see the equipment available to emergency services employees in a metropolitan area, and the Real Time Crime Center, where they watched samples of video surveillance tapes that analysts examine to assist police officers in solving cases. The class was even able to expand their discussions outside of Kentucky through a video meeting with an employee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C., who explained how social scientists use data to design digital products and news segments that will keep people safe during inclement weather.

Reynolds and her scholars then watched the PBS special *The Spill* to consider how mismanagement can lead to man-made disasters. They explored the "second disaster" that occurs when concerned citizens' donations create a logistical problem for disaster responders and debated the ethics of "disaster tourism," during which people travel to sites of former natural disasters.

Using all of this information, scholars went to work creating disaster-prevention tools for the public. Noting the success of the Smokey Bear campaigns, the class designed mascots to spread preparation messages to young children. They also wrote, filmed, and edited public service announcements containing tips to protect the public during a variety of potential natural disasters.

cops & robbers

Bellarmino University

How do we learn the difference between right and wrong? This was the central question of **Michelle Salerno's** class. Using the childhood game of “Cops and Robbers” as a foundation, scholars delved into their own journeys of moral decision-making. The class identified factors that influenced the formation of their morality—including families, religions, schools, and friends—while noting the influence of more subtle factors, such as games and popular culture. Scholars discussed difficult moral choices, their process of decision-making, and consequences of their choices. They also learned about what influences criminal behavior, the function and performance of the justice system, and the role of the media and journalism in crime reporting.

Below: GSP-Morehead scholars display a food mosaic resembling art they had seen in the film *Loving Vincent*.

what a piece of work

Morehead State University

Kim Reeder's class aimed to create mosaics and, in doing so, bring together small pieces of otherwise unremarkable materials to create beauty in the whole. Morehead State University Art History professor Julia Finch visited the class to discuss the history of mosaics and how they have been used both as a storytelling device and for more utilitarian purposes. Scholars visited Cincinnati's Union Terminal to view mosaics as well as the Kentucky Folk Art Museum and the Home for Wayward Babydolls to see how unwanted or discarded items can be repurposed in mosaics.

Scholars then joined residents at the Cave Run Manor assisted-living facility to create two mosaics that could be placed in the nearby garden. As a capstone project, the class created an intricate mosaic of the GSP logo from “found objects” such as bottle caps, glass, CDs, and navy beans.



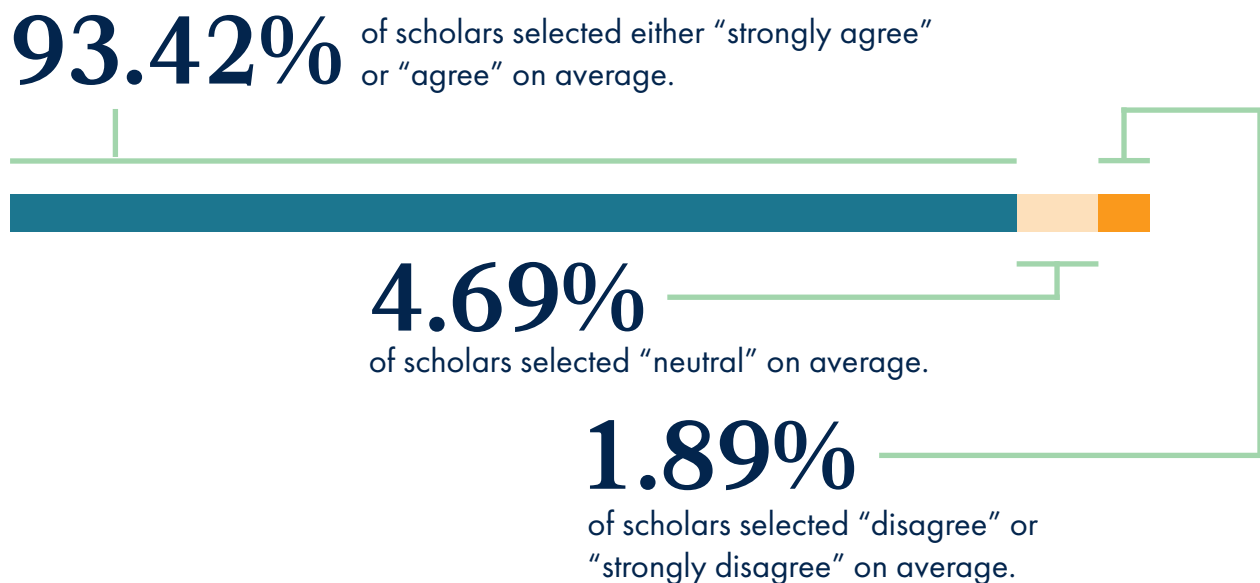
scholar experience survey

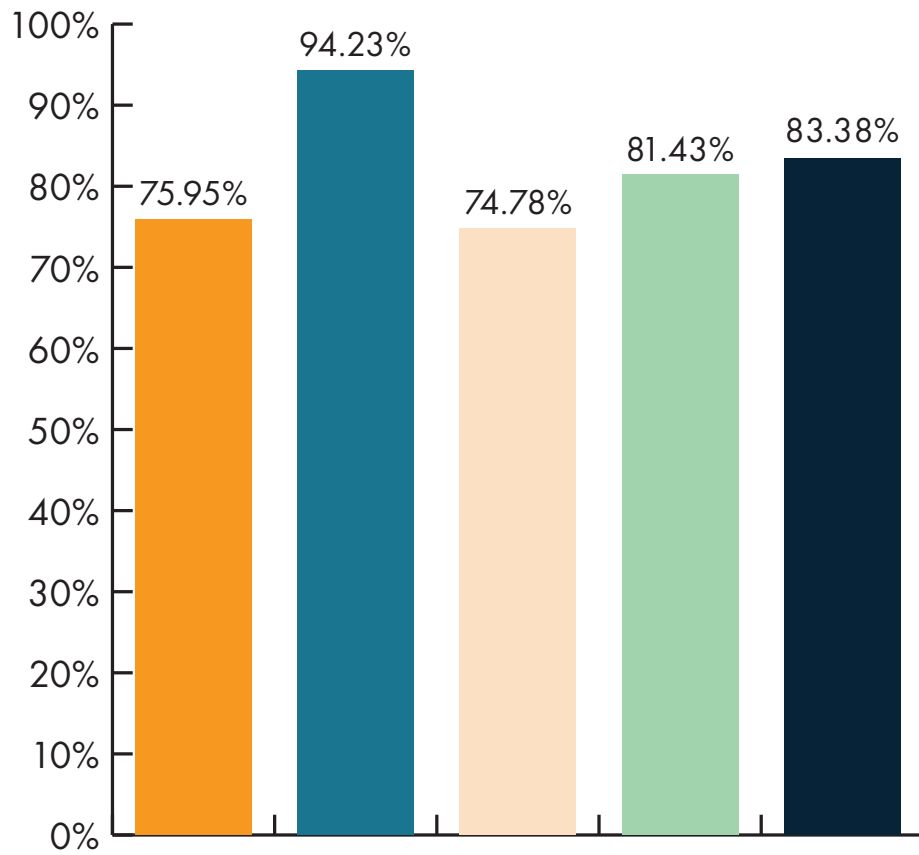
Each summer, before leaving their respective campuses, all Governor's Scholars are asked to complete a Scholar Experience Survey of approximately thirty questions pertaining to all aspects of GSP. Program staff use the survey results to help gauge the success of the summer, evaluate faculty and staff 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 2019 Scholar Experience Survey. For a complete list of questions and results, visit the GSP website at gsp.ky.gov.

overall results

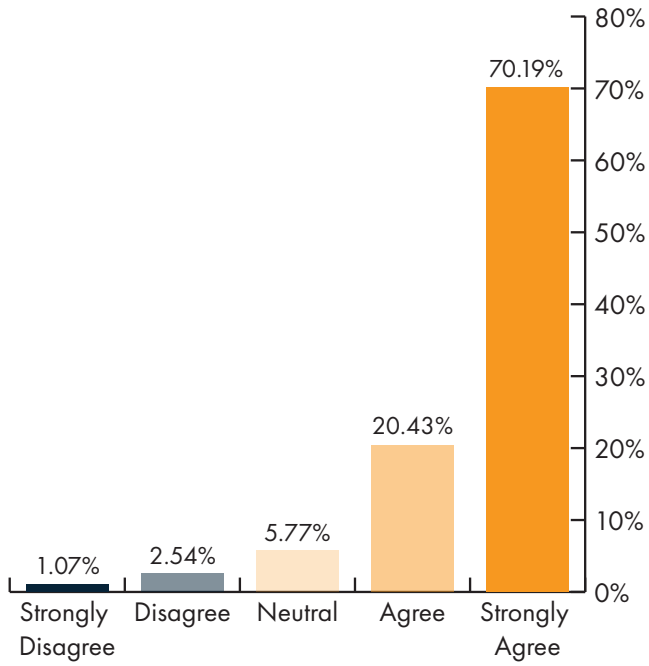
Scholars overwhelmingly rated their GSP experience as positive. On average, participants selected either "strongly agree" or "agree" 93.42% of the time. In comparison, "neutral" responses made up 4.69% of the total. Scholars very rarely reacted negatively to the survey prompts, choosing "disagree" only 1.38% of the time and "strongly disagree" in only 0.51% of responses. No question received a negative response rate above 4.88%.





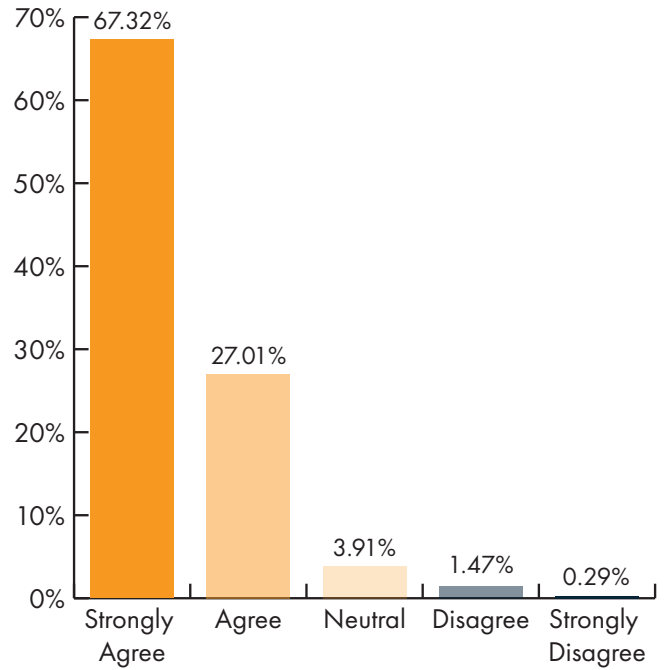
“My participation in the Governor’s Scholars Program has strengthened my...”

- 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

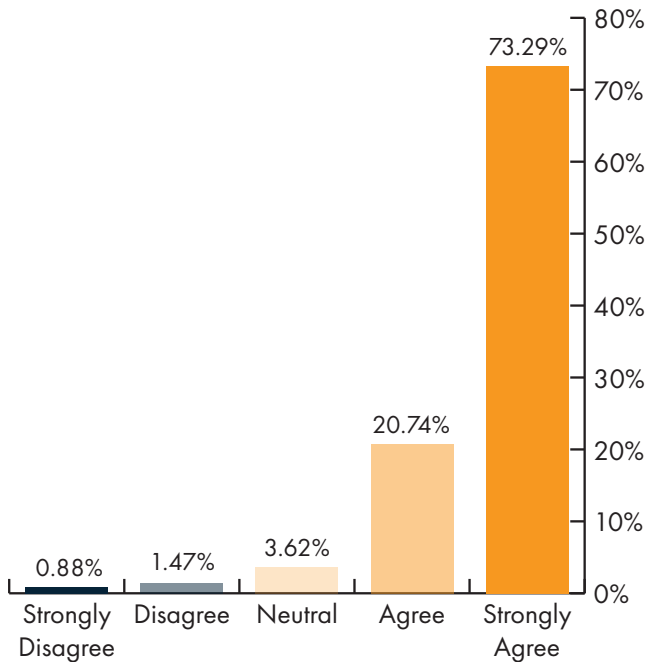


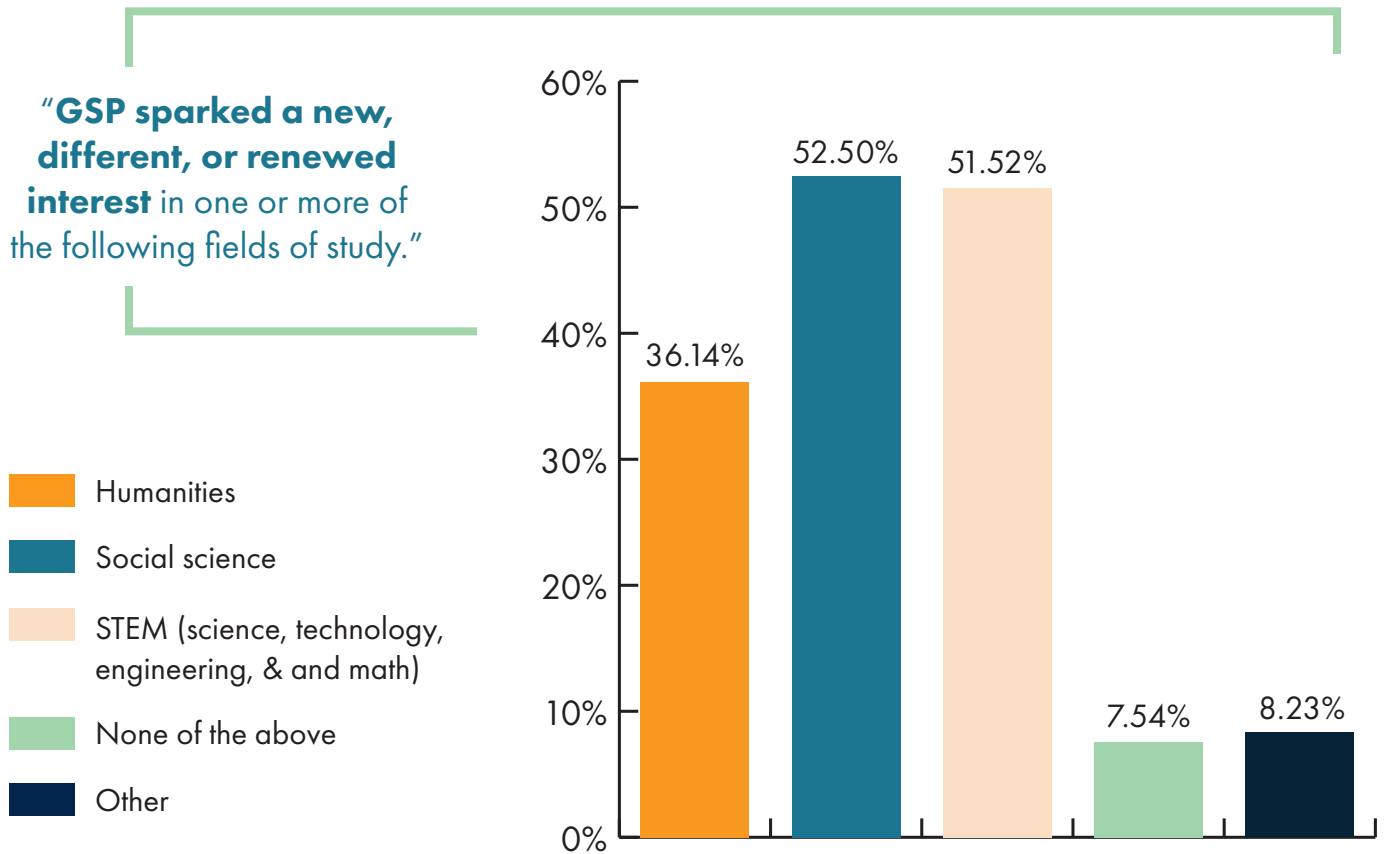
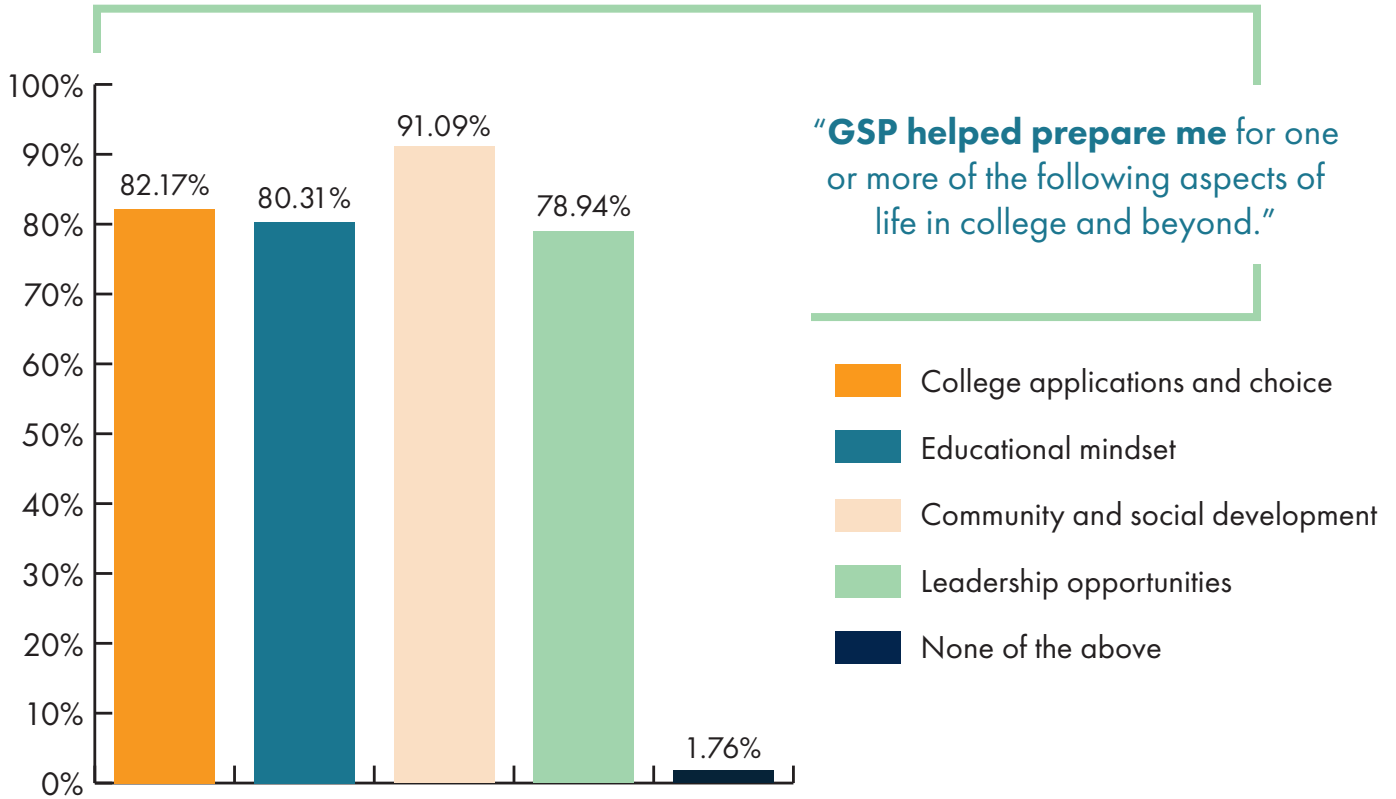
"My Focus Area
was a positive
learning experience."

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



"My General Studies
was a positive
learning experience."



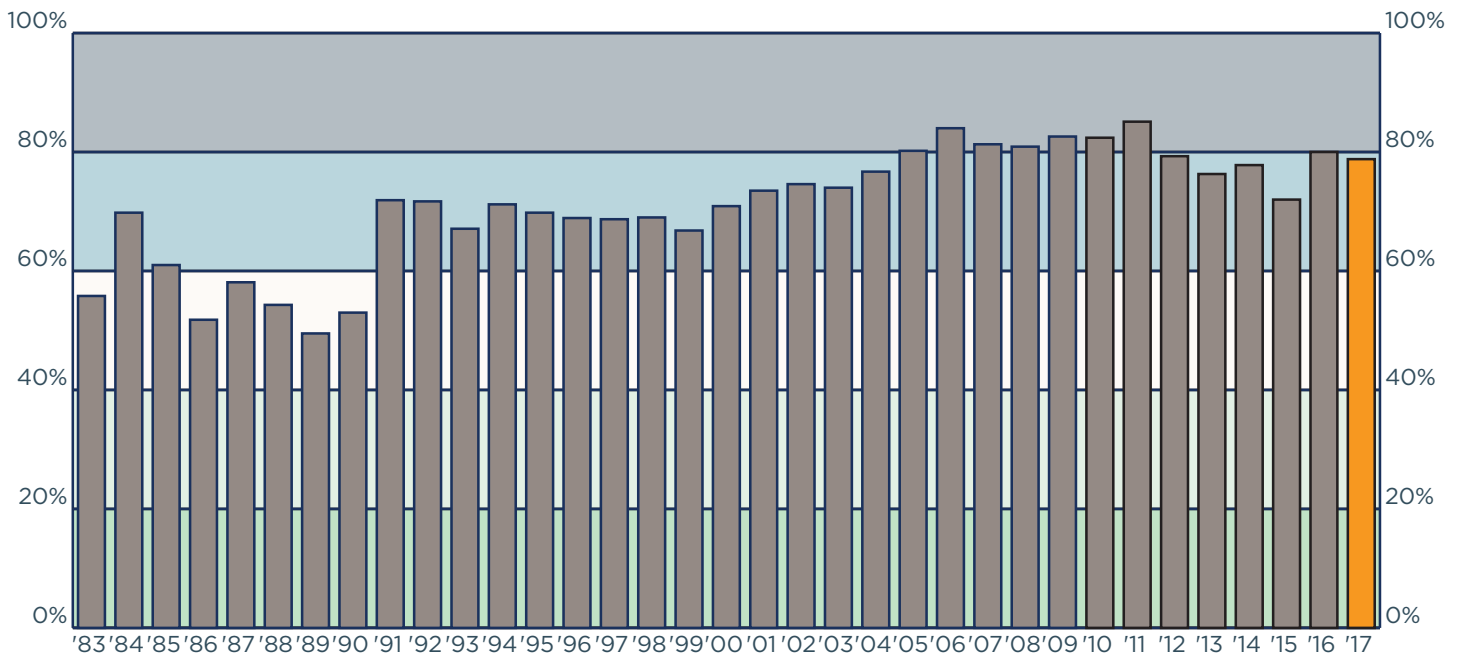


scholar in-state data

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.

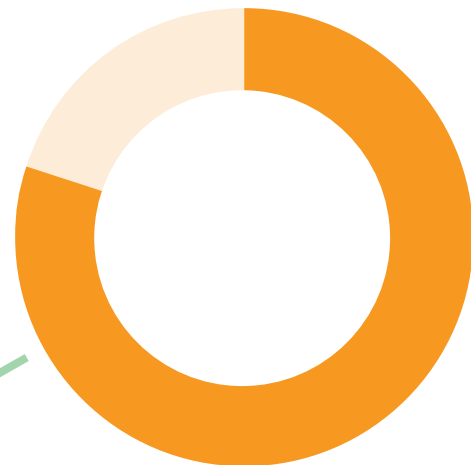
Of the 2017 scholars, the most recent year for which data is available, 78.4% enrolled at a Kentucky college or University in the fall of 2018.



permanent residence

As of September 2019, 31,750 students have completed the Governor's Scholars Program. The Program currently has valid contact information on file for 25,590 living alumni.

Of those alumni, 21,044—**82.24%**—have a permanent address within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



82.24% of alumni

additional information

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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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