The Facts 2009-2010 [Western Kentucky University]

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The Facts

2009-2010

Name: Western Kentucky University
Vision: WKU, A Leading American University with International Reach.
Established: 1906
President: Dr. Gary A Ransdell
Enrollment: 20,712 (Fall 2009)
Full-Time Faculty & Staff: 2,194
Operating Budget: $347 million ($75.5 million from state appropriations)
Endowment: $95.7 million (FY 2009)
Sponsored Research & Public Service: $23.6 million (FY 2009)
Mascot: Big Red
Athletic Conference: Sun Belt Conference

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Academic Quality

WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting
The 1997 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act challenged each Kentucky university to identify at least one program capable of achieving national prominence. **WKU’s School of Journalism and Broadcasting** has achieved such recognition. The school has won nine consecutive top four overall finishes in the “Pulitzers of College Journalism,” the Hearst Journalism Awards. Additionally, the school has won the Hearst Intercollegiate Photojournalism Competition 17 of the last 20 years. WKU has finished in the top eight overall for 16 years.

WKU Forensics Team
The **WKU Forensics team** boasts state and national distinction. In 2009, the team swept two major speech and debate titles, winning the National Forensics Association Tournament, the most prestigious title in forensics, as well as the American Forensics Association Tournament title. This is the team’s sixth time sweeping the NFA and AFA titles in eight years.

Applied Research and Technology Program
The **Applied Research and Technology Program** (ARTP) focuses on WKU’s growing responsibility for applied research and the use of faculty and students to identify and solve problems. The ARTP contains 14 centers that are working both in the laboratory and directly in communities to find solutions to real-world problems in the region and across the globe.

**Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering**
Aimed at increasing the state’s limited number of engineers, WKU has built three strong undergraduate programs in **Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering**. These programs help drive the state’s economy by putting more licensed engineers on Kentucky job sites and shop floors. In 2005, WKU’s three engineering programs were fully accredited by ABET, Inc., the professional organization responsible for accreditation of engineering programs.

**Programs in the ARTP**
- Advanced Materials Institute
- Agriculture Research and Education Complex
- Applied Physics Institute
- Architectural and Manufacturing Science Institute
- Bioinformatics & Information Science Center
- Biotechnology Center
- Center for Biodiversity Studies
- Center for Water Resource Studies
- Engineering Services Center
- Hoffman Environmental Research Institute
- Institute for Astrophysics & Space Science
- Institute for Combustion Science & Environmental Technology
- Kentucky Climate Center - Kentucky Mesonet
**WKU Chinese Flagship**

The **WKU Chinese Flagship** has redefined language education. The goal of this program is to take students with little or no knowledge of the Chinese language up to Superior levels of proficiency by the time they graduate from WKU. Students not only study the Chinese language and culture, they participate in mandatory study abroad experiences and internships during their college careers. The WKU Chinese Flagship is one of nine Chinese programs throughout the United States funded by the federal Language Flagship Program in the U.S. Department of Defense.

**SKyTeach**

WKU launched **SKyTeach** in the Fall of 2008. SKyTeach is funded by a grant from the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI). WKU is one of only 12 universities nationwide selected for the $125 million grant, receiving $2.4 million. SKyTeach, modeled after the highly successful and nationally recognized UTeach program at the University of Texas at Austin, is designed to increase the quantity and quality of math and science teachers through a specialized curriculum, teaching opportunities, and financial assistance. The program also partners with 10 area school districts.

**Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science in Kentucky**

In the Fall 2009, the **Carol Martin Gatton Academy for Mathematics and Science in Kentucky** welcomed 60 gifted juniors from Kentucky high schools. The goal of the Gatton Academy is to enable Kentucky’s exceptional young scientists and mathematicians to learn in an advanced educational environment to prepare them for leadership roles in Kentucky. Now in its third year, the Gatton Academy serves 120 high school juniors and seniors each year.

**Honors College**

WKU is home to the only independent **Honors College** at a public university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, providing students the individualized experience of a highly-selective private college with all the resources and benefits of a larger university at a public school price. Honors College students are involved in travel abroad, undergraduate research, service-learning, and nationally competitive scholarships. Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Executive Director of the Honors College, finds that students have a chance to put a personal stamp on their education. “Students are empowered to personify the Spirit of Engaged Excellence,” says Cobane.

**Scholarships**

In 2009 six WKU students were recognized in national federal commemorative scholarship competitions with one receiving a **Goldwater Scholarship** and two awarded with **Udall Scholarships**. In 2009, WKU was named one of the top U.S. producers of **Fulbright** students among Master’s degree-granting institutions. Four WKU graduates have been awarded 2010-2011 Fulbright grants. All four are graduates of the University Honors College, and departments within WKU’s Potter College of Arts & Letters.
ALIVE Center
WKU established the ALIVE Center (A Local Information and Volunteer Exchange) as part of the Regional Stewardship initiative. Established in 2002, the ALIVE Center promotes community development across Central Kentucky through campus and community partnerships. The Center connects community agencies and organizations with volunteers. It also serves as a comprehensive information source helping community members experiencing hardship find the appropriate agency to address their specific needs.

Institute for Rural Health Development and Research
The Institute for Rural Health Development and Research provides dental services, medical services, health screenings, and health education to area communities. With its two mobile Wellness Units, the Institute provides preventative services and health education to the medically under-served and uninsured in rural Kentucky. The program’s hands-on approach achieves two goals – it provides a valuable service to the region while offering practical field training to students.

WKU Finish
WKU launched WKU Finish to attract and assist former students who attended the university but left WKU before completing a degree. The first phase of the program in tandem with the statewide Project Graduate coordinated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), targets upwards of 3,000 former WKU students who have earned 90 or more college credit hours. Resources – including quick admittance, financial assistance and advising – are provided by WKU Finish specialists who work directly with the student to address his/her specific needs.

WKU’s Center for Research and Development
WKU’s Center for Research and Development provides state-of-the-art research facilities and access to world class applied research centers and scientists. The Center is home to WKU’s Applied Physics Institute, the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, Advanced Materials Institute and Cyber Defense Center, the Innovation and Commercialization Center, and a Small Business Accelerator with 17 technology based businesses. The Center brings together scientists, engineers, WKU faculty, and students for research collaborations.

Academic Colleges & Deans
Potter College of Arts & Letters
Dr. David Lee

Gordon Ford College of Business
Dr. Robert Reber, Interim Dean

College of Education & Behavioral Sciences
Dr. Sam Evans

College of Health & Human Services
Dr. John Bonaguro

Ogden College of Science & Engineering
Dr. Blaine Ferrell

Graduate Studies & Research
Dr. Richard Bowker

University College
Dr. Dennis George

University Libraries
Dr. Michael Binder

Division of Extended Learning & Outreach
Dr. Donald Swoboda

Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox/Radcliff - Dr. Ronald Stephens
Glasgow - Dr. James McCaslin, Interim Director
Owensboro - Dr. Gene Tice

"Education is key to economic well-being, both for the individual and for the Commonwealth.”

Dr. Gary Ransdell, President

University Leadership

Board of Regents
Jim Meyer
Chair – Bowling Green

Yvette Haskins
Vice-Chair - Campbellsville

J. David Porter
Secretary - Lexington

Dr. Melissa Dennison
Glasgow

Freddie Higdon
Lebanon

Colton Jessie
Student Regent

Jim Johnson
Bowling Green

James Kennedy
Staff Regent

Patricia Minter
Faculty Regent

Rob Wilkey
Scottsville

Larry Zikelke
Louisville

Administrative Council
Dr. Gary A. Ransdell
President

Mr. Howard Bailey
VP for Student Affairs

Gordon Baylis
Vice President for Research & President of Research Foundation

Dr. Gordon Emslie
Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

Ms. Ann Mead
VP for Finance & Administration

Dr. Richard Miller
Associate VP for Academic Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer

Mr. John Osborne
VP for Campus Services & Facilities

Dr. Bob Owen
VP for Information Technology

Mr. Ross Bjork
Director of Athletics

Ms. Robbin Taylor
VP for Public Affairs

Ms. Deborah T. Wilkins
General Counsel & Chief of Staff

Search in Progress
VP for Institutional Advancement
Student Satisfaction
In a recent Baccalaureate Alumni survey, 98.6% of alumni indicated they were satisfied with the overall quality of education at WKU.

Enrollment Fall 2009
- Full Time: 20,712 (100%)
- Part Time: 14,936 (72.1%)
- Graduate: 5,776 (27.9%)
- Undergraduate: 3,067 (14.8%)

Classification
- Freshman: 17,645 (85.2%)
- Sophomore: 15,234 (7.5%)
- Junior: 15,978 (7.7%)
- Senior: 16,067 (7.7%)
- High School Dual Credit: 16,508 (8.0%)
- Academy Students: 15,798 (7.6%)
- Other Undergraduates: 15,843 (7.5%)
- Masters: 15,505 (7.3%)
- Specialist: 15,218 (7.3%)
- Cooperative Doctoral: 15,194 (7.2%)
- Doctoral: 15,186 (7.2%)
- Graduate Non-degree: 14,833 (6.9%)

Demographics
- White: 17,177 (82.9%)
- African American: 2,150 (10.4%)
- Other: 1,385 (6.7%)

Female: 15,292 (59.3%)
Male: 8,420 (40.7%)

Residency
- In-State: 14,135 (68.3%)
- Out-of-State: 10,435 (50.7%)
- International: 575 (2.8%)

Top 10 Counties Represented
- Warren 4,324
- Jefferson 3,178
- Barren 1,312
- Daviess 965
- Hardin 943
- Logan 682
- Simpson 394
- Allen 392
- Monroe 290
- Butler 278

 WKU enrollment reached an all time high in the fall of 2009, 20,712 students.

First-time First-year Students Profile
FTFY Students Fall 2009: 3,387

Demographics
- White, Non-Hispanic: 2,694 (79.5%)
- African American: 532 (15.7%)
- Other: 161 (4.8%)

Gender
- Female: 1,849 (54.6%)
- Male: 1,538 (45.4%)

Residence
- In-state: 2,790 (82.4%)
- Out-of-state: 576 (17.0%)
- Off-Campus: 984 (29.1%)
- On-Campus: 2,403 (70.9%)

High School Academic Performance
- The average ACT of incoming FTFY students is 21.
- The average High School GPA is 3.15.
- There are 215 high schools represented.
- 353 students entered with Advanced Placement (AP) credit.
Faculty Profile

- The number of full-time faculty has increased by 5.9% over five years. In Fall of 2005 there were 694 full-time faculty. By Fall of 2009 that number had increased by more than 40 faculty members.

- WKU faculty have earned advanced degrees from 330 colleges and universities worldwide, including 25 international institutions.

- Over 70% of all full-time faculty have earned a terminal degree in their field.

Fall 2009 Student Faculty Ratio: 19 to 1

Distance Education & Regional Campuses

Serving Students Through Distance Education

- In Fall 2009, WKU provided web courses to 7780 students in 105 of Kentucky's 120 counties. Additionally, students from all 50 states enrolled in web courses offered by WKU.

- Over the academic year, WKU provided more than 1000 internet courses to students. This figure represents more than twice the number of web courses offered just five years ago.

Distance Education Chart:

- Counties with Students Enrolled in WKU Courses

Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox/Radcliff Regional Campus

- The Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox/Radcliff Regional Campus has grown by 38% since Fall 2003.

Owensboro Regional Campus

- The Owensboro Regional Campus has grown by 14% in five years.

Glasgow Regional Campus

- The Glasgow Regional Campus has grown by 8% in five years.
Frequently Called Numbers

Admissions ............................................. (270) 745-2551
Alumni Relations & Annual Giving ........... (270) 745-4395
Athletics .................................................. (270) 745-3542
Bookstore ................................................ (270) 745-2466
Campus & Community Events .................. (270) 745-2497
Campus Operator ...................................... (270) 745-0111
Carroll Knicely Conference Center .......... (270) 745-1908
Housing & Residence Life ......................... (270) 745-4359
Human Resources ..................................... (270) 745-5360
Kentucky Museum ..................................... (270) 745-2592
Libraries .................................................... (270) 745-3951
President’s Office ..................................... (270) 745-4346
Public Affairs ........................................... (270) 745-4586
Registrar’s Office .................................... (270) 745-3351
Ticket Office ............................................ (270) 745-5222
WKU Welcome Center ............................... (270) 745-5470

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Western Kentucky University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to offer an individual with a disability and equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities.

For additional information and assistance, please review the following link: http://www.wku.edu/eoo

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