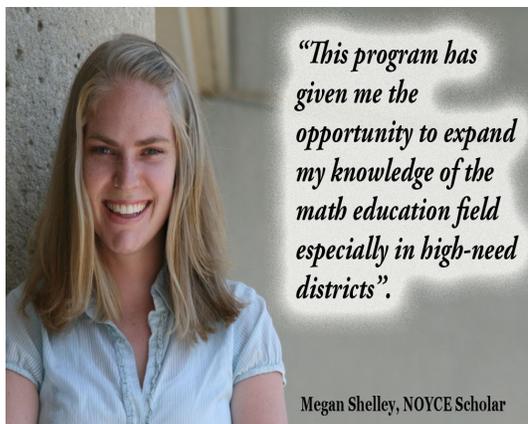


The KCM and NKU focus on STEM!

We have collaborated to create three programs funded by the National Science Foundation.

Project SOAR (Scholarships, Opportunities, Achievements and Results) recruits, retains, educates and will graduate academically talented students who have financial need and who will enter the workforce or graduate school in a STEM related field. SOAR awards 19 renewable scholarships to incoming freshman who declare a STEM major at NKU. Project SOAR involves much more than funding a STEM major's education, including faculty mentors, a year-long freshman seminar, a learning community, an opportunity for residential students to live together, high quality enrichment activities, opportunities for research, internships, co-op experiences, and academic support such as peer mentoring and tutoring. SOAR is an intellectually rigorous program that gives students the support to excel. **Freshman, who completed the first year of the program in 2010, earned a GPA that was one grade level higher and had a retention rate that was significantly higher than other freshman STEM majors.**



The PRIME (Preparing Regional Increases in Mathematics Educators) program is an effort to increase the number of secondary math teachers and impact high need school districts. The program provides services that help recruit, support, and retain highly qualified mathematics educators through training, professional development, ongoing support, resources, and scholarships. Specifically, the program offers a PRIME summer internship for freshman and sophomores to get real world work experience with those working in the mathematics education field and a NOYCE Scholarship. The scholars participate in monthly professional development activities, such as attending conferences, engaging in teacher panels, and other informational sessions that contribute to the effectiveness of their future teaching careers. The program has just completed its first year; there are seven scholars and six interns.

FORCE (Focus on Occupations, Recruitment, Community, and Engagement) is a project that seeks to double the retention rate of first time freshman who declare a STEM major and increase the number of four year bachelor's degrees in a STEM major by 50%. The strategies used to achieve these goals include STEM Ambassadors who lead peer learning study sessions, coordinate and contribute to Linked In social and academic activities across STEM disciplines, and provide personal experience for incoming freshmen at NKU recruiting events. The project also includes paid summer research opportunities.

