

Dina Neumann

From: nkuall-bounces@listserv.nku.edu on behalf of James Votruba [VOTRUBA@nku.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:51 AM
To: James Votruba; nkuall@listserv.nku.edu; nkustudentsall@listserv.nku.edu
Subject: RE: [nkuall] (no subject)

PS: I must note that in my original email below the Morrill Act is spelled incorrectly.

James C. Votruba
President
Northern Kentucky University
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Highland Heights, KY 41099
Phone: 859-572-5123
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Please note that all e-mails directed to President James Votruba are subject to open records laws and may become public information.

From: nkuall-bounces@listserv.nku.edu [mailto:nkuall-bounces@listserv.nku.edu] **On Behalf Of** James Votruba
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:15 AM
To: nkuall@listserv.nku.edu; nkustudentsall@listserv.nku.edu
Subject: [nkuall] (no subject)

Good morning. I am writing with some encouraging news related to our budget. The Kentucky House of Representatives passed a revenue package yesterday afternoon that will raise enough funds to reduce NKU's budget cut to something much lower than the projected 6.7%. The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration. They are expected to have a close vote on the bill Friday afternoon. What is at stake is continued institutional growth in response to student demand, maintenance of scholarship levels at a time when students and their families are concerned about their ability to pay for college, continued investment in high demand academic programs, and our continued support of regional progress in such areas as economic growth and P-12 enhancement.

Your voice can be heard by calling your Senator today at 1-800-372-7181 or 502-564-8100 and leave a brief message. Our legislators tell me that they depend on public input to help guide their decisions on important issues such as this revenue proposal. To find your legislator, you can go to <http://gcr.nku.edu>

We celebrate two birthdays today that relate to the current discussions in Frankfort. Both Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on this day two hundred years ago. America is most familiar with Lincoln as a wartime president who preserved the Union and formally ended slavery. What many don't know is that it was President Lincoln who, in 1862, signed the Morrill Land Grant Act which made federal lands available to each state which could be sold to establish the nation's first public state colleges. Lincoln recognized, as did Congress, that a strong and well educated middle class was fundamental to sustaining a free and democratic society. Prior to 1862, access to a college education was generally limited to the wealthy and well born. The Morrill Act was intended to insure that all Americans had access to affordable public higher education as a pathway to economic stability, civic literacy, and a strong and enduring democracy. In other words, the Morrill Act was as much about insuring national as well as individual progress. Our university is a modern day reflection of these values. There is no single social institution more directly related to individual and collective public progress than the modern public university. Our capacity to serve these dual missions depends on continued public investment at both the federal and state levels. What better way to celebrate all that Lincoln has meant to our nation than to protect the investment in public higher education that he helped launch in 1862.

If Lincoln's leadership helped launch what has become the finest system of public higher education in the world, Charles Darwin help launch the age of scientific inquiry which is a pillar on which the modern day university is built. Darwin's seminal work on the origin of species provided penetrating new insights regarding life itself and how humans have

evolved. His work continues to inform the work of modern day scientists on this and other university campuses as they probe ever more deeply into those questions that Darwin raised so many decades ago.

Both Lincoln and Darwin have left an indelible imprint on not only the nation and world but also on the modern university and NKU. Each in their own way has profoundly influenced the nature of our work and the impact that we have on our students and our region. It is fitting that we celebrate the contributions of these two transcendent figures who were born on this day, two hundred years ago.

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