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# New leader guides NKU Foundation

## Karen Zerhusen Kruer appointed

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Karen Zerhusen Kruer this month became executive director of the \$70 million NKU Foundation.

The foundation is responsible for accepting and managing all funds raised to support NKU.

"After having a 'commuter marriage' for nearly two years, my husband and I were looking to be together in the same city," said Kruer. "I was willing to return to Northern Kentucky for the right opportunity. The position at NKU came to my attention and represented that right opportunity."

**ADVERTISEMENT** Kruer, who lives in Edgewood with her husband Tom, spent the last two years as the director of development for special gifts and campaigns at the University of South Florida (USF) Foundation in Tampa. The assets of that foundation are \$360 million.

Kruer previously served NKU as an adjunct professor at the Chase College of Law from 1990-1997. She taught alternative dispute resolution.

Kruer believes her background will help her steer the foundation over the coming years.

"The position at the NKU Foundation presents a unique opportunity in that it utilizes my skills and experiences as an attorney, mediator, business owner, nonprofit executive director, community foundation regional funds director, university development director and community leader," she said.

"I am thrilled to have this chance to bring my knowledge and background to NKU, a place which makes such a great impact on the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region."

Kruer said her first 30 days will be spent getting acquainted with the foundation's 70-member board, the university's leadership and the foundation's current projects.

"One of the most significant projects the foundation is currently engaged in to support the university is a major effort to develop the property at the main entrance of Northern Kentucky University between U.S. 27 and the new Bank of Kentucky Center - the region's new special events center - that is currently under construction," said Kruer.

She said that her success at leading the foundation will be determined on a number of fronts, including increasing private donations and involvement in volunteer leadership.

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