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Technology entrepreneur to talk at NKU

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Alum to discuss business preparation

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Thomas M. Burkardt, a 1980 Northern Kentucky University alumnus, will be the speaker at the Chellgren Pathways to Entrepreneurship Speaker Series on Tuesday.

"The series is designed to bring excellence in entrepreneurship education to the region," said Sally Allen, coordinator for the Fifth Third Bank Entrepreneurship Institute at NKU. "This event provides students from both NKU and regional high schools, faculty and the regional business community with an opportunity to interact with and learn from nationally recognized entrepreneurial leaders."

Burkardt is the CEO, president and chairman of the board of Tewksbury, Mass.-based BlueNote Networks, a 2-year-old, 55-employee technology firm. "When you browse the Web and see a 'click to call' button, you may be using BlueNote software," Burkardt said. "We enable voice calls to be embedded in Web sites - very easily."



PROVIDED

Thomas M. Burkardt

ADVERTISEMENT At the luncheon, the Bellevue native will talk about how his experiences at NKU helped his future entrepreneurship.

"A key element to this day and speech is education and preparation - you need luck and luck is what happens when opportunity meets preparation," Burkardt said. "Education is the beginning of that preparation and the foundation of the tools required that will allow you to stay prepared."

For Burkardt, that preparation was at NKU. "I am sure that I will also touch on my love for the school and that I love what it provides for its students: a faculty that cares about them, knows them and will go above and beyond to help them succeed," he said. "I will talk about how that helped me and how that will help the students attending today."

The speaker series is usually held each fall. Past speakers included Bill Samuels Jr., CEO of Maker's Mark Distillery; Robert Clay, founder and owner of Three Chimneys Horse Farm; and Dr. Stephen Spinelli Jr., president of Philadelphia University and co-founder of Jiffy Lube.

Required R.S.V.P.s for the event can be made at

859-572-5931 or by e-mailing allens@nku.edu.

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