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Last Updated: 5:44 am | Saturday, May 10, 2008

# NKU hosting weeklong camp for students about journalism

## High schoolers can learn from pros

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - The Northern Kentucky University College of Informatics is hosting its first Journalism in the Digital Age Summer Camp from June 16 to 20. The camp is open to 20 high school students curious about journalism.

"The Communication Department has been talking about hosting a journalism camp at NKU for a number of years," said Michele Day, camp coordinator and NKU journalism instructor. "This year, the department decided to make this a priority. We see it as a way to give high school students a preview of what journalism students study in college - and what professional journalists do on the job."

Day said the camp will incorporate into journalism many of the disciplines found in the College of Informatics.

ADVERTISEMENT "We'll focus on traditional journalism values and skills," said Day. "But the technology we have available today gives reporters all kinds of new ways to tell good stories. On the Web, you can add sound and video. You can make stories interactive, so your audience can respond to the issue. We'll talk about how to use those new tools most effectively."

Day said the camp will teach students to come up with story ideas, develop interview and reporting skills, produce multimedia news stories and publish their work on the Internet. The students will also hear from local journalists.

"We want students who are curious, enthusiastic learners, have discovered journalism and they want to develop skills and learn the principles of journalism," said Dr. Gaut Ragsdale, chairman of the Communications Department.

However, associate professor Mary Cupito thinks the camp will also be useful to students with other interests.

"Frankly, even if they don't want to be journalists, this camp will introduce them to skills they can use in any profession - how to ask questions, how to understand what you're seeing, how to write a compelling piece," she said.

Day said she hoped that, if they are not already, many of the students will return to their high schools to work on their school papers. She cited a report that related grades to participation in such extracurricular activities.

"It found that high school journalists earn higher grade-point averages, score higher on the ACT and even earn higher grades in college than their peers who are not involved with student media," said Day.

The cost of the camp is \$150. It runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Visit [journalism.nku.edu/summer\\_camp](http://journalism.nku.edu/summer_camp) for more information.

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