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## NKU creates institute to help nonprofit groups

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Northern Kentucky University has announced creation of the Institute for Nonprofit Capacity Building. It will be part of the university's Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement and Nonprofit Development.

Capacity, as defined by Robert Reifsnyder, president of United Way of Greater Cincinnati, is "defining the mission of the organization, defining the goals of the organization and bringing the people, programs, processes and resources together to be successful in the mission and those goals."

The United Way gave \$100,000 in 2006 and will give \$75,000 in 2007 to the institute as seed money. E. Miles Wilson, director of the Scripps Howard Center, will be heading up the new institute.

"Our region has not had a comprehensive non-profit organization that's designed to provide a broad array of services to nonprofits in the region," said Wilson.

Reifsnyder also saw a need in the area for a group dedicated to non-profit's capacity building.

"The United Way and other organizations have worked to help nonprofits develop their capacity in a variety of ways over the years," said Reifsnyder. "But it has been in a fairly wide way and not very deep. It hasn't been - for most organizations - their primary focus."

Wilson said the institute will help nonprofits provide education to their managers, conduct research to provide information to people who work with and in the non-profit sector and offer training and technical assistance to nonprofits. Many of these programs will be implemented over the next year.

Like their for-profit counterparts in the corporate world, much of the work will be done through outside consultants and contracts to help minimize costs.

Wilson says this will contribute another institute's objective of not relying on outside funding.

"Ultimately we will fund all of our own costs through our fee for services," Wilson said.

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