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Bank gives NKU \$135K to recruit music students

By Howard McEwen
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National City Bank has given \$135,000 to Northern Kentucky University to attract students to its music program. Students will be recruited from prestigious schools and conservatories throughout Europe.

Scholarship recipients will study under Neyer Family Endowed Professor Sergei Polusmiak, an "Honored Artist of Ukraine" and an artist in residence at NKU.

Yulia Yun of Uzbekistan, the most recent student to earn the scholarship, is one of 10 international students in the program. About 400 international students are enrolled at NKU. Polusmiak teaches students from Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Argentina.

Polusmiak believes the scholarship will benefit NKU in many ways.

"Professional training there (Europe) is unbelievably strong compared to what we have in the U.S. now, especially for children. Bringing those students here is a way to show American students and all people what could be done in early music education," Polusmiak said.

"Other reasons to bring those students are to attract good local students, to change local students' environment, make them work harder and to see that everything is possible if you work hard. I have more and more American students who came to NKU to study because of hearing of my Ukrainian students," he said.

The scholarship will be paid out over three years in \$45,000 installments. It was the result of coordination between NKU's University Development and benefactors Tom and Christine Neyer.

The Neyers recommended the scholarship to National City Bank, which has established a \$10 million charitable fund for such programs.



ZOOM The Enquirer/Leigh Patton
Northern Kentucky University freshman Yulia Yun gets piano instruction from Professor Sergei Polusmiak. Yun, of Uzbekistan, is the most recent recipient of the National City Bank scholarship.

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