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NKU seeks to assist non-profits

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HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University's Institute for Nonprofit Capacity has a new director. Dayle Deardurff has been appointed to the position.

"I would love to see us as the go-to place - being the 911, the 411 and the 211 - for nonprofits," said Deardurff. "That they would think to come here, look to us as a resource and if we didn't have it, I and others would find them the resources.

"That's what we're hoping to build."

The institute's stated mission is "to marshal the resources of the university - our intellectual capacity - on behalf of the nonprofit community."

Deardurff previously served as the CEO of Cincinnati Works and as executive director for both Public Allies and ProKids.

"I have worked as a nonprofit exec for 25 years, loved every minute of it and have a passion for developing strong organizations that provide needed services and opportunities in our community," she said. "I am looking forward to developing more resource for others. I have been in their shoes."

The institute was started in 2005 with funding from the United Way and Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

"We want to be a communitywide and regionwide resource to help them build their capacity, improve skills, knowledge and collaborations," said Deardurff.

Deardurff said the institute will work to connect area non-profits to the university's resources.

"We have the College of Informatics and we are in the process of looking at a virtual C.I.O. (chief information officer) program that would help non-profits improve their technical skills," she said.

She also wants to make sure non-profits are aware of NKU's Master of Public Administration program, the Nonprofit Management certificate and NKU's service learning programs.

"We also have roughly 100 different classes that do projects with non-profits that would help them," she said.

Deardurff said one of her immediate actions will be to build an advisory board of nonprofits.

"We want to bring in the voices of the stakeholders - funders and non-profits," she said. "To have them work with me and work with others here to be sure we're responding. What are their needs? Where they're significant issues? And where can each of them provide help for others?"

"This is a great community of non-profit leaders and we want to tap them, tap NKU and bring resources in."

More information can be found at <http://inc.yourmembership.com>.