

FOREVER BRIGHTER™

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY®



Tuscarawas Campus
Rising Scholars

PRIORITIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

RISING SCHOLARS

Investing in the Future

At Kent State, our purpose is to help students find their purpose – so they can cultivate their talents and create a brighter tomorrow. There's no better way to do that than offering education and opportunity for those who need it most.



SUCCESS STORY

Erin Taylor, Class of 2018

Erin Taylor knew that someday she wanted a job where she could help people. She liked school, always had friends and dreamed of making a difference. She was selected to be part of the Rising Scholars Program in seventh grade and, after a few years in the program, Erin began to see how her life was changing.

Erin attends Kent State's Salem Campus, majoring in psychology. Following graduation, she would like to work as a child psychologist so she can help kids through tough situations. Erin is also a mentor. "Everyone involved with Rising Scholars kept me focused on deciding what I want to be and supported me," she said. "I know that I want to help others, and I want to be able to give back."

"I always wanted to go to college, but I didn't know how I could do it.

The Rising Scholars program made it seem like I was made to go to college, that I was smart enough and that I was good enough," Erin said.



CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW FOR STUDENTS

The Rising Scholars Program, one on each Kent State campus, combines mentoring with assistance from local communities and businesses to provide support for young adults beginning in seventh grade. The program allows them to maximize their all-important high school years and focus on making well-informed career choices after graduation.

Kent State students who have similar experiences regarding family life or socioeconomic challenges serve as mentors to guide these promising middle and high school students through difficult personal and academic situations. When student participants commit to the program, a free college education awaits them at a Kent State regional campus. They will also become the next generation of mentors who "pay back" their community for this generous support.

INSTILLING A SENSE OF COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY

The Rising Scholars Program specifically addresses the workforce-ready and brain drain issues that many Ohio communities face. Program activities teach these young adults both the hard and soft skills necessary to succeed in life after high school. The program also instills a strong sense of belonging and promotes a commitment to community service.

This is not just about college access. It is a next step program that engages promising students with curricular and experiential resources to excel. At the end of this program, students will be enrolled, employed or enlisted. This university-wide program represents the diversity of people and communities within our region, and it showcases the unique aspects and challenges found in these areas of Northeast Ohio.

"For our Rising Scholars, mentors make the real difference. By providing a consistent, supportive voice in our scholars' young lives, they affirm college is more than a dream; it's a reality within reach."

**- Denise A. Seachrist, Ph.D., Dean and Chief Administrative Officer,
Kent State University at Stark**

Kent State has regional campuses in seven counties, offering ready access to diverse communities. These campuses are engaged to help promising students find a clear path to success. In addition to the student mentors, the university's knowledgeable, caring and committed faculty and staff provide support and services to students throughout the program.

Rising Scholars have access to a variety of career and life skills workshops during the school year including Military Careers Workshop, Engineering and Manufacturing Careers Workshop, Horticulture Careers Workshop, Nursing Careers Workshop, Broadcasting Careers Workshop, Leadership Skills Class, ACT Preparation Class and Financial Aid Workshop.

GROWING THE PROGRAM

Philanthropic support from individuals, local businesses and communities has allowed Kent State's regional campuses (Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas and Twinsburg) to expand programs or create new programs as part of Rising Scholars.

"When fully implemented, the collective impact of the Rising Scholars Program in Northeast Ohio will be significant," said David M. Dees, Ph.D., Rising Scholars Program Founder and Associate Professor of Cultural Foundations. "Private gifts are critical to fully execute the program. Our regional campuses may be small, but together, our resources, talent and footprint are quite impressive."

20%↑

scores on motivation,
identity, cultural competence
and responsibility*

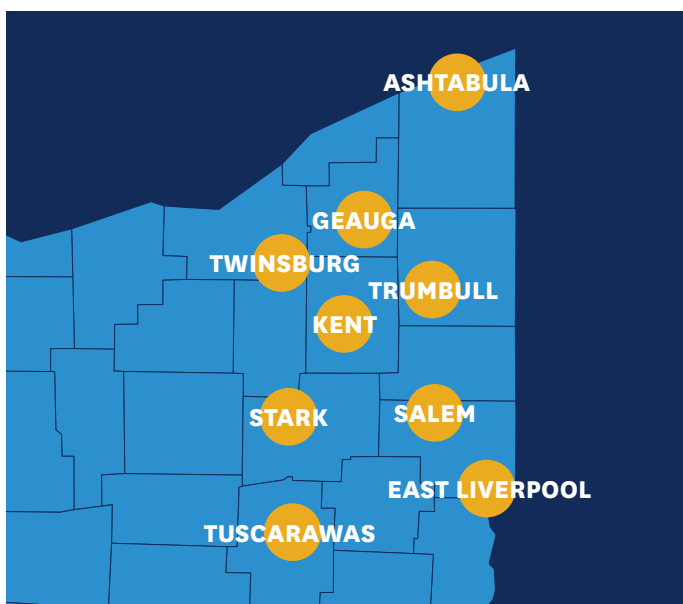
30%↑

scores on boundaries,
expectations, service
and support*

*compared to non-program
students



2019 Rising Scholars Graduation, Columbiana Campus



"We will have the capacity to serve nearly 1,000 underserved students from seventh grade through bachelors' degrees. We are reaching students long before they enter into college with a program that assures they are ready for college in terms of academic preparation, finances and confidence. This program is a game-changer for our region."

- **David Dees, Ph.D.**
Rising Scholars Program Founder
Associate Professor of Cultural Foundations

Kent State Regional Campus System



Stark Campus Rising Scholars

For more information or to discuss a philanthropic gift,
please contact us at advancement@kent.edu or 330-672-2222.

www.kent.edu/supportrisingscholars

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