KENT STATE OF WELL-BEING

Three-year Strategic Plan
2021-2024
Table of Contents
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Background Moving Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>8 Dimensions Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Mission Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Strategic Goals High-Impact Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Timeline, Spring 21’–24’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Current Programs &amp; Projects Strategic Road Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Division of Student Affairs Learning Outcomes Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Campus Partners &amp; Teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As it currently stands, our country is at an unprecedented crossroads. The combination of a global pandemic, economic crisis, and the fight to eliminate institutional racism is sure to leave a prolonged impact on the physical and emotional well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and the entire community.

Issues within the last decade have intensified, thanks to the added isolation and distress of the current global situation. As we face this new challenge, we look to build upon the momentum of the last five years’ work.

Background

Creating the Initiative

This initiative results from data collected from the 2016 Kent State Climate Study, Healthy Minds survey, and the ACHA-NCHA survey completed and compiled between 2015-2017. The results of the study identified critical areas of need that were underserved in the community. As a result, an initiative was launched to develop services and resources to help support the community’s health and well-being.

The first three years focused solely on identifying strategies to improve the health of the Kent State University community members in eight priority areas:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Safety
- Preventive Care
- Smoking & Tobacco
- Alcohol and Other Drugs

These strategies included recommending a review of university policies, creating the Kent State of Wellness initiative, the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free policy, the partnership with the JED Foundation, and the Great Place Initiative. These strategies were grounded in the American College Health Association’s Healthy Campus 2020 framework. Kent State University took the American College Health Association’s Healthy Campus Pledge, declaring our commitment to promote and support a healthier campus community.

As a result, substantial changes were implemented due to these efforts, including increased clinical mental health staffing on all campuses, expanded mental health services, built support for essential need resources, and collaboration across the community on meditation, mindfulness, and self-care. This early work serves as a strong foundation for a more integrative and holistic approach to well-being, guiding the next three years.
Well-being:
the state of being happy, healthy, or prosperous. (Merriam-Webster)

Moving Forward
Understanding the Challenge
To meet this challenging time and rising need of students, it is imperative that Kent State University’s healthy campus initiative focuses on engaging and empowering students to thrive and live their best lives even in the face of continuing uncertainty, stress, and conflict. With this shift toward a holistic approach, the decision was made to rebrand from, Kent State of Wellness to the Kent State of Well-Being.
The Kent State of Well-Being’s (KSoW) role is to prevent, support, and collaborate in ways that enhance both individuals and the community. This initiative builds a broad range of resources that will foster;

- Health Equity
- Social Justice
- Belonging
- Engagement
- Self-advocacy

resulting in a thriving community.

Now is the time to focus on the individual’s holistic health, well-being, identify barriers, and institutional structures that may impact that goal. This initiative works closely with students, faculty, staff, and community partners to deliver the most optimal programming. Kent State of Well-Being works closely with the,

- CARES Center
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Campus Mental Health Coalition
- Student Mental Health Coalition

to support non-clinical programs, services, and resources that help individuals build skills that improve health, well-being, and academic success.
We embrace the eight dimensions of well-being created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Kent State of Well-Being has chosen this model to guide the support and development of programs, services, and resources.
8 Dimensions Definition’s

**Emotional**
- coping effectively with life and creating satisfying relationships.

**Spiritual**
- expanding our sense of purpose and meaning in life.

**Intellectual**
- recognizing creative abilities and finding ways to expand knowledge and skills.

**Physical**
- recognizing the need for physical activity, diet, sleep, and nutrition.

**Environmental**
- good health by occupying pleasant, stimulating environments that support well-being.

**Financial**
- satisfaction with current and future financial situations.

**Relational**
- developing a sense of connection, belonging, and well-developed support systems.

**Occupational**
- personal satisfaction and enrichment derived from one’s work.

**Values**

**Social Justice:** is a critical foundation of equitable health and well-being.

**Sense of Belonging:** enhances emotional well-being as well as personal and academic success.

**Engagement:** advanced through listening, dialogue, and active inclusion.

**Self-advocacy:** is crucial to agency and empowerment, central to health, well-being, and achievement.

**Self-reflection:** is a necessary practice for mindfully considering one’s needs, behaviors, and responsibilities.

**Institutional Assessment:** is essential to recognize and transform existing barriers and organizational structures that impact health equity and well-being.
Mission

Kent State of Well-Being’s mission is to support, promote, and create robust opportunities, programs, and resources that enable individuals to achieve a holistic sense of health and well-being.

We encourage the entire community to invest time, talent, and resources toward cultivating a safe, just, and healthy culture.

Vision

“Student well-being at Kent State is rooted in a public health approach that enhances holistic health, well-being, and safety for all students. By implementing prevention and health promotion strategies, we can support academic success, promote student development and engagement, and strive for health equity.

Simply put, the vision is to seamlessly integrate well-being and academic success in a manner that allows for students to thrive.”

-Dr. Lamar Hylton, Vice President for Student Affairs
Strategic Goals

5 Goals

1. Enhance and support an environment where all members can pursue a personal path to well-being, build self-advocacy skills, and take responsibility for themselves and the community.

2. Support the work completed by University partners to ensure safety, clinical health care, psychological counseling, basic needs, and public health through active engagement, promotion, and awareness.

3. Lead in health education, promotion, and literacy through resources, communication, engagement, stress reduction opportunities, and peer-based programming.

4. Collaborate across the university and the broader community to remove barriers, promote access and health equity, build health and well-being into the culture and achieve a safe, just, and healthy community.

5. Expand and develop the opportunities, programming, partnerships, resources, and technology that will enable our community’s safety, health, well-being, and success.

High-impact Actions

1. Enhance and support an environment where all members can pursue a personal path to well-being, build self-advocacy skills, and take responsibility for themselves and the community.

   - Develop health and well-being content that can be shared with all community members through existing connections such as student organizations, classrooms, and leadership programs.
   - Develop Project GROW (gaining resilience, opportunities, and well-being) to include a Farmer’s Market, student gardening program, organic garden, garden to table menu in dining halls. This initiative will enable students, faculty, and staff to be active participants in the Kent State University food chain.
   - Improve access to existing programs and resources to be more holistic, engaging, inclusive, and impactful.
   - Engage with Graduate Studies to develop health and well-being resources and programming that support our graduate students’ holistic needs.
   - Support the development of materials, exercises, and resources for the FYE curriculum.
   - Engage the local spiritual and religious community to raise awareness of these organizations that support an essential dimension of growth and well-being.
   - Support the development of the new University Dining Services initiative.
Support the work done by university partners to ensure safety, clinical health care, psychological counseling, basic needs, and public health through active engagement, promotion, and awareness.

- Advocate for the work of Campus Safety, Sexual Relationship Violence Support Services (SRVSS), and Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) through committee participation, promotion of resources, and educational programming support.
- Share Employee Wellness programming and resources with faculty and staff whenever appropriate.
- Support the services and resources provided by University Health Services through collaboration and communication.
- Collaborate with the Crisis, Advocacy, Resources, Education, and Support (CARES) Center and Campus Mental Health Coalition to identify gaps in programs, services, and resources that could enhance health and well-being.

Lead in health education, promotion, and literacy through resources, communication, engagement, stress reduction opportunities, and peer-based programming.

- Utilize a peer-based approach to well-being, health education, and promotion that leverages the enhanced outcomes of Flashes taking care of Flashes.
- Explore, plan, and develop a peer-based well-being coaching program.
- Expand opportunities for outdoor recreation, play, relaxation, and contemplation by partnering with students, Grounds, Healthy Communities Research Institute, Recreational Services, Office of the Architect, Sustainability, and the Outdoor Adventure Center.
- Contribute and support the Healing Stanzas project, a collaboration with several departments across the University.
- Develop an experiential academic course that will offer students an opportunity to build healthy habits, self-awareness, self-advocacy, and agency.

Collaborate across the university and the broader community to remove barriers, promote access and health equity, build health and well-being into the culture and achieve a safe, just, and healthy community.

- Enhance belonging and connection through collaboration, programs, and resources that faculty, staff, and students can use to foster conversation, allow for vulnerability and build trust.
- Develop a passive feedback system through the web and social media that allows community members to contribute ideas, input, and suggestions.
- Develop comprehensive communication tools to share data from the 2021 Healthy Minds Survey.
- Through collaboration and dialogue, critical support reflects Kent State University’s policies, procedures, and systems that may impact our community’s health and well-being.
- Consult with the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to remove barriers, promote health equity and uphold social justice.
- Assist in meeting the unique health and well-being needs of our diverse student population by partnering with the Center for Adult and Veteran Services, Office of Global Education, Office of International Student Affairs, Student Accessibility Services, and other departments.
- Assemble a new cross-functional team of faculty, staff, and students annually (three meetings/year), encouraging broader participation, more inclusive programming, and improving outcomes.
- Plan a regional conference with a sharp focus on ‘improving cognition with healthy habits’ for spring 2022 in collaboration with The Brain Health and Healthy Communities Research Initiatives.
- Hold a Kent State of Well-Being Summit each year to engage all stakeholders in discussion and learning that advance collaboration and understanding.
- Explore ways to incorporate the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals as a possible framework for long-term strategic planning.

Expand and develop the opportunities, programming, partnerships, resources, and technology that will enable our community’s safety, health, well-being, and success.

- Identify opportunities to enhance the student experience by taking action on the 2021 Healthy Minds survey results.
- Identify funding partners for projects and explore opportunities to generate revenue, enabling long-term sustainability.
- Leverage national best practice standards, tools, and surveys to enhance outcomes; provide data reference points for analysis.
- Contract with a software platform that puts Kent State branded original health and well-being content and resources in the community’s hands.
**Proposed Timeline**

*Spring 2021–Spring 2024*

**Spring 2021**
- Assemble cross-functional team, schedule meetings, and complete three-year strategic plan.
- Deploy and complete the Healthy Minds survey.

**Summer 2021**
- Complete assessment plan.
- Develop and refine training and roll out for peer program.

**Fall 2021**
- Recruit and train peer advocates.
- Introduce well-being app for all students.
- Launch Farmer/Maker Market.
- Share Healthy Minds data.
- Hire a health promotion and education professional.

**Spring 2022**
- Launch peer program university-wide.
- Launch Project GROW.
- Plan conference in collaboration with HCRI and BRHI.
- Develop resources for FYE.
Summer 2022
- Kent State of Well-Being Summit.
- Train KORU facilitators.

Spring 2023
- Expand garden-to-table to all campuses.
- Create internships.

Fall 2022
- Launch well-being coaching program.
- Fund and install outdoor seating.
- Begin building outdoor ‘playground’.

Fall 2023
- Review three-year strategic plan.
- Develop and complete next three-year strategic plan.

Summer 2023
- Conduct Kent State of Well-Being Summit.

Spring 2024
- Deploy and complete the Healthy Minds survey.
Kent State of Well-Being

Student Ambassadors:
consists of student-led programming, community awareness, and engagement.

Flashes Rise Above:
going faculty and student-led educational programming that is interactive, accurate, and collaborative.

Meditation Across Campus:
virtual, 30-minute, and drop-in sessions offered each weekday.

Koru:
basic & 2.0 virtual mindfulness meditation program for faculty, staff, and students.

Koru Silent Retreat:
four-hour virtual silent retreat focused on breathing, progressive relaxation, guided imagery, mindfulness, yoga, and meditation.

Regional Campus:
financial support and program development.

Well-being Themed Residential Program

Seeds of Wellness:
a mini-grant program.

Larry Pollock Kent State of Well-Being Summit/Conference

Current Programs & Projects
For the Community, Built by the Community
Kent State University
Strategic Road Map

Kent State of Well-Being is a unit within the Division of Student Affairs at Kent State University. It is grounded in the mission, vision, and values of the institution and the division.

**Core Values:**
We value:
- A robust blend of teaching, research, and creative excellence.
- Active inquiry and discovery that expands knowledge and human understanding.
- Life-changing educational experiences for students with wide-ranging talents and aspirations.
- A living-learning environment that creates a genuine sense of place.
- Engagement that inspires positive change.
- Diversity of culture, beliefs, identity, and thoughts.
- Freedom of expression and the free exchange of ideas.
- A collaborative community.
- Respect, kindness, and purpose in all we do.

**Vision:**
To be a community of change agents whose collective commitment to learning sparks epic thinking, expressive voices, and invaluable outcomes to better our society.

**Mission:**
We transform lives and communities through the power of discovery, learning, and creative expression in an inclusive environment.

Kent State of Well-Being is a unit within the Division of Student Affairs at Kent State University. It is grounded in the mission, vision, and values of the institution and the division.
Division of Student Affairs

Commitment to the University

We embrace the values and commitments of Kent State University’s Division of Student Affairs. We work to show empathy, respect, kindness, collaboration, and professional excellence in all that we do. We also pledge to implement the division commitments:

- Purposefully treat others with respect and kindness.
- Seek to understand those we interact with on their terms.
- Promote inclusion by example.
- Interrupt harmful or exclusionary behavior.
- Listen without judgment.
- Encourage, engage, and share resources.
- Intentionally validate and affirm all division staff.
- Be open to learning about one’s self and from others.

The Kent State of Well-Being’s work falls under the division pillar of Advocacy, Support, and Well-Being; with this guidance firmly grounding our work and actions, we articulate the mission, vision, and values that align and enhance the overall mission; to be ‘students first.’

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to integrate health information with personal beliefs and health behavior.

2. Students will be able to demonstrate self-advocacy when addressing their physical, social, and emotional wellness needs.

3. Faculty and staff will be able to identify campus resources to meet their wellness needs.
Assessment

Evaluating the University’s Needs

The purpose of the Kent State of Well-Being Assessment Plan is to evaluate the initiative’s effectiveness in providing tools and resources to help Kent State journey towards establishing a culture of health and well-being. Helping to make it a reality, a fully realized assessment plan will be developed throughout the Summer of 2021. It will utilize national campus wellness framework designs based on and aligned with the Healthy Campus Framework, the Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Cross-functional Framework for Advancing Health and Well-being, and the Campus Well-being Guide.

Components of the assessment plan will address:

- Evaluation methods for educating students to navigate the KSoW initiative, analyzing levels of awareness, engagement, and communication channels.
- Analysis of baseline data to establish critical benchmarks aligned with the KSoW strategic goals and student learning outcomes. It will include the ACHA/NCHA survey, NSSE, Healthy Minds, KSU Climate Survey, campus security reports, along with other internal data sources.
- A gap analysis to identify campus community needs and opportunities for academic and community-based partnerships. This analysis will contribute to the ongoing development of the initiative’s infrastructure and partnership collaboration.
- Leveraging technology and other resources for student self-assessment and self-monitoring to empower students’ regulation of their well-being across the eight SAMSHA dimensions.
- Scorecards to understand the broader implications of an effective, comprehensive campus wellness initiative. It can promote student self-assessment and showcase metrics to meet internal and external stakeholders’ and partners’ needs.

Another important aspect of assessment and effectiveness will be creating high-level and broad support for the Kent State of Well-Being initiative. It will be a crucial component to have the following for success:

- Consistent and visible support from not only the President but also cabinet members.
- Focus on creating a community grounded in social justice, utilizing the tools of diversity, equity, and inclusion to build that community.
- Intentional collaboration between the Division of Student Affairs and Academics Affairs.
- Defined ways to support cooperation, collaboration, and accountability with other divisions, colleges, and campuses.
- Alignment with all non-clinical health, wellness, and well-being departments, programs, and services, to create shared services and prevent duplication and confusion.
- Marketing and branding assistance from University Communications and Marketing.
Kent State University
Partnerships & Collaborations

Brain Health Research Institute
Campus Kitchen
Campus Mental Health Coalition
Center for Adult and Veteran Services
Center for Sexual and Relationship Violence Support Services
Center for Student Involvement
Center for Teaching and Learning
College of Architecture & Environmental Design
College of Business
College of Education, Health and Human Services
College of Nursing
College of Podiatric Medicine
College of Public Health,
Division of Mental Health and Substance Use
Counseling and Psychological Services
Counseling Center
Department of Psychological Sciences
Department of Recreational Services
Department of Residence Services
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Design Innovation
Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Division of Human Resources
Division of Research & Sponsored Programs
Graduate Studies

Healthy Communities Research Initiative
Honors College
Nutrition and Dietetics Program
Kent State Fashion Museum
Kent State Police Services
Kent State University at Ashtabula
Kent State University at East Liverpool
Kent State University at Geauga and Twinsburg
Kent State University at Salem
Kent State University at Stark
Kent State University at Trumbull
Kent State University at Tuscarawas
LGBTQ+ Center
Office of Global Education
Office of Health Promotion
School of Exercise Physiology
Student Accessibility Services
Student Leadership Institute
Student Mental Health Coalition
Student Multicultural Center
Undergraduate Student Government
University College
University Dining Services
University Health Services
Wick Poetry Center
Women’s Center

Regional & National Partnerships & Collaborations

Active Minds
American College Health Association (ACHA)
Center for Koru Mindfulness
City of Kent, Ohio
Haymaker’s Farmers Market
Healthy Minds
JED Foundation
Main Street Kent
Mental Health First Aid
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)

National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA)
North Eastern Ohio Medical College (NEOMED)
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health (OPCSMH)
Peg’s Foundation
Portage County Department of Health
Portage County Mental Health Board
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)
Cross Functional Team  
**Faculty/Staff**

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**Students**

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