PRELIMINARY STRATEGIC LISTENING SESSIONS
THEMATIC SUMMARY
APRIL 2024

What are some of NKU's greatest strengths that you believe we should strive to bolster and highlight?

1. <u>Academic Excellence and Faculty:</u> NKU offers high-quality education comparable to R1 institutions, with strong faculty-student connections and interdisciplinary curriculum.
   1.1. Quality faculty and staff
   1.2. Faculty connections and class size
   1.3. First-year connections to faculty
   1.4. Education provided is just as strong as R1's
   1.5. Interdisciplinary curriculum

2. <u>Student-Centered Approach:</u> NKU provides a supportive environment that fosters student growth, both academically and personally.
   2.1. Our students, employers say NKU students possess grit
   2.2. Student support services available
   2.3. Soft skill development
   2.4. "Both and" experience versus "either or"

3. <u>Location and Regional Connections:</u> NKU's strategic location offers unique opportunities for student engagement and career development.
   3.1. Location: proximity to Cincinnati and regional connections
   3.2. Opportunities to connect with employers
   3.3. Alumni connections

4. Affordability and Accessibility: NKU is committed to providing accessible, g1eq8 BDC q0 0 612 792 reW*nBT/TT1 10..00

   pus Environment: NKU offers a safe and welcoming campus atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth.
   5.1. Safe campus

In terms of student success, where do you feel we have the greatest opportunities to make an impact?

1. Career Readiness and Experiential Learning: Enhancing career preparation and real-world learning experiences can significantly improve student success.
    1.1. Career connections and recruitment
    1.2. Career coaching in FYSSH
    1.3. Scaffolding career education and baking in experiential learning for all students
    1.4. Increase skill development of our students
    1.5. Helping students to better understand job market and equipping with language for the future
    1.6. Experiential learning specifically for online students

2. Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility: Focusing on diverse student populations and removing barriers can expand NKU's impact on student success.
    2.1. Non-traditional student population
    2.2. International student enrollment
    2.3. Remove entry barriers and improve transfer process
    2.4. Invest in ATC and transfer student destination
    2.5. Increase URM faculty
    2.6. Re-evaluate and strengthen existing programs like River City Schools, Upward Bound, Rural communities

3. Student Engagement and Support: Strengthening support systems and engagement opportunities can enhance the overall student experience.
    3.1. Campus vibrancy and online engagement
    3.2. Lack of affinity and support for online students
    3.3. Mentorship connections between students and staff
    3.4. Academic Advising: grow and invest
    3.5. Connect with students outside of SGA
    3.6. Utilization of students for university projects

4.

What do you feel are the greatest challenges NKU is facing over the next few years?

1. <u>Identity and Public Perception:</u> NKU needs to clarify and strengthen its public image and positioning in the higher education landscape.
    1.1. Public image, need to go beyond class size, how can we define NKU in the community
    1.2. Cohesive and proactive message regarding political headwinds
    1.3.