MAKING WAVES

NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY

September 2026



Norfolk State University opened its doors on September 18, 1935, amidst the Great Depression. Celebrate this momentous occasion by reflecting on Norfolk State's past and future legacy. BEHOLD!

Click here for Founders Week events

Sold Down River Project Launches Podcast

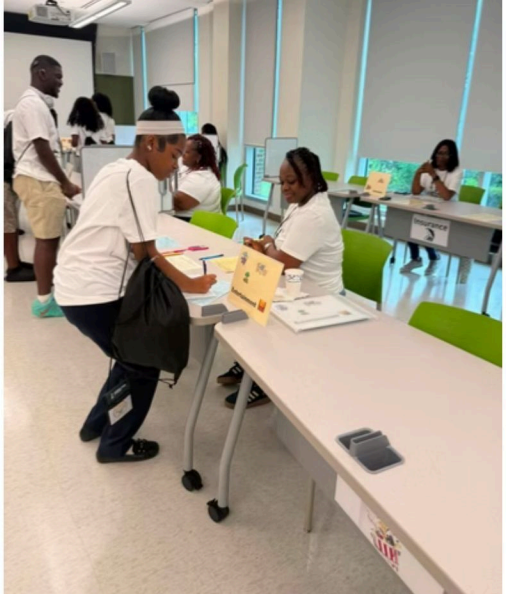


Launched in 2019, the Sold Down River project examines records connected to the domestic slave trade and tells the stories of people whose lives might otherwise remain hidden in history.

As part of that work, the Sold Down River podcast brings the project's research to a broader audience by exploring historical records, sharing newly uncovered stories and examining the lasting impact of the domestic slave trade on communities in Norfolk and New Orleans.

Learn more about the podcast

School of Business Empowers Youth Through Financial Literacy Conference





The Norfolk State University School of Business is helping young people build a stronger financial future by equipping them with practical knowledge and skills through its annual Financial Literacy Youth Empowerment Conference.

Held this summer, the one-day conference brought youth aged 18 and under together for an engaging day focused on money management, budgeting, financial decision-making and the real-world costs of everyday life.

Learn more about the conference

NSU Faculty Advances Quantum Materials Research at Jefferson Lab



NSU team (from left: Dr. Karna; Foster, PhD student; and Kevin, undergraduate) performed neutron scattering experiments at the Spallation Neutron Source (SNS), ORNL, using the Elastic Diffuse Scattering Spectrometer (CORELLI) on honeycomb-based spin systems.

Through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Visiting Faculty Program, Dr. Sunil K. Karna, Assistant Professor of Physics, spent summer 2026 conducting collaborative research at Jefferson Lab focused on radiation-tolerant functional quantum materials for extreme environments. The highly competitive program provides faculty from across the country with opportunities to conduct research at DOE National Laboratories.

The collaboration also extended to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where Dr. Karna and two NSU students conducted experiments using advanced research facilities. Together, these research experiences are helping examine how materials respond to radiation exposure and identify materials with potential applications in space technologies, advanced electronics and quantum devices.

The collaboration strengthens Norfolk State University's research partnerships with national laboratories while providing NSU students with hands-on experience in advanced experimental techniques and facilities. Ph.D. students Foster Ontumi and Orrin Delgado, both in Physics, contributed to the research through the synthesis and characterization of quantum materials and are expected to benefit from future research opportunities at Jefferson Lab.

"I want NSU students to have opportunities to work alongside national laboratory scientists, gain experience with state-of-the-art experimental facilities, and see themselves as future contributors to the national scientific enterprise," said Dr. Karna.

Youth Summit Elevates Youth Voices



Norfolk State University brought Hampton Roads youth together for a Youth Summit designed to create a safe, empowering space for young people to share their experiences, explore challenges affecting their lives and develop solutions for their communities.

Norfolk State University brought Hampton Roads youth together for a Youth Summit designed to create a safe, empowering space for young people to share their experiences, explore challenges affecting their lives and develop solutions for their communities.

Hosted by Dr. Sharon Alston, Social Work Associate Professor, the summit was part of her research on youth development and was funded through a grant from the Center of Public Health Initiative. More than 100 youth attended the event, with participants representing organizations and communities across Hampton Roads.

The event focused on social and behavioral health and gave participants opportunities to have meaningful conversations about young people's experiences today. Through gender-specific workshops, youth explored topics including identity, confidence and self-love while discussing how they navigate environmental stressors such as violence and other social welfare challenges.

“We are spending far too much time and energy telling young people what they should be doing and limited time listening to what their needs are,” said Alston. “We must turn our attention to the positive attributes of youth and build on these capacities and strengths.”

A central component of the summit challenged participants to move from conversation to action. Participants developed programs they believed could address issues affecting their communities, proposing solutions related to sexual assault, mental health, gun violence and faith.

Battle of the Bay Giving Challenge Starts Today!



Beginning today, Norfolk State University and Hampton University will go head-to-head in the Battle of the Bay Giving Challenge, and we are calling on Spartan Nation to show up in a BIG way!

Through September 19, NSU alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends and supporters will have the opportunity to come together, give back and show the strength of the Spartan community.

Every Spartan matters. Every gift counts. Every gift moves NSU closer to the win.

Make A Gift

Give Your Feedback!

Copyright (C) 2025 Norfolk State University. All rights reserved.

700 Park Ave Norfok, VA 23504