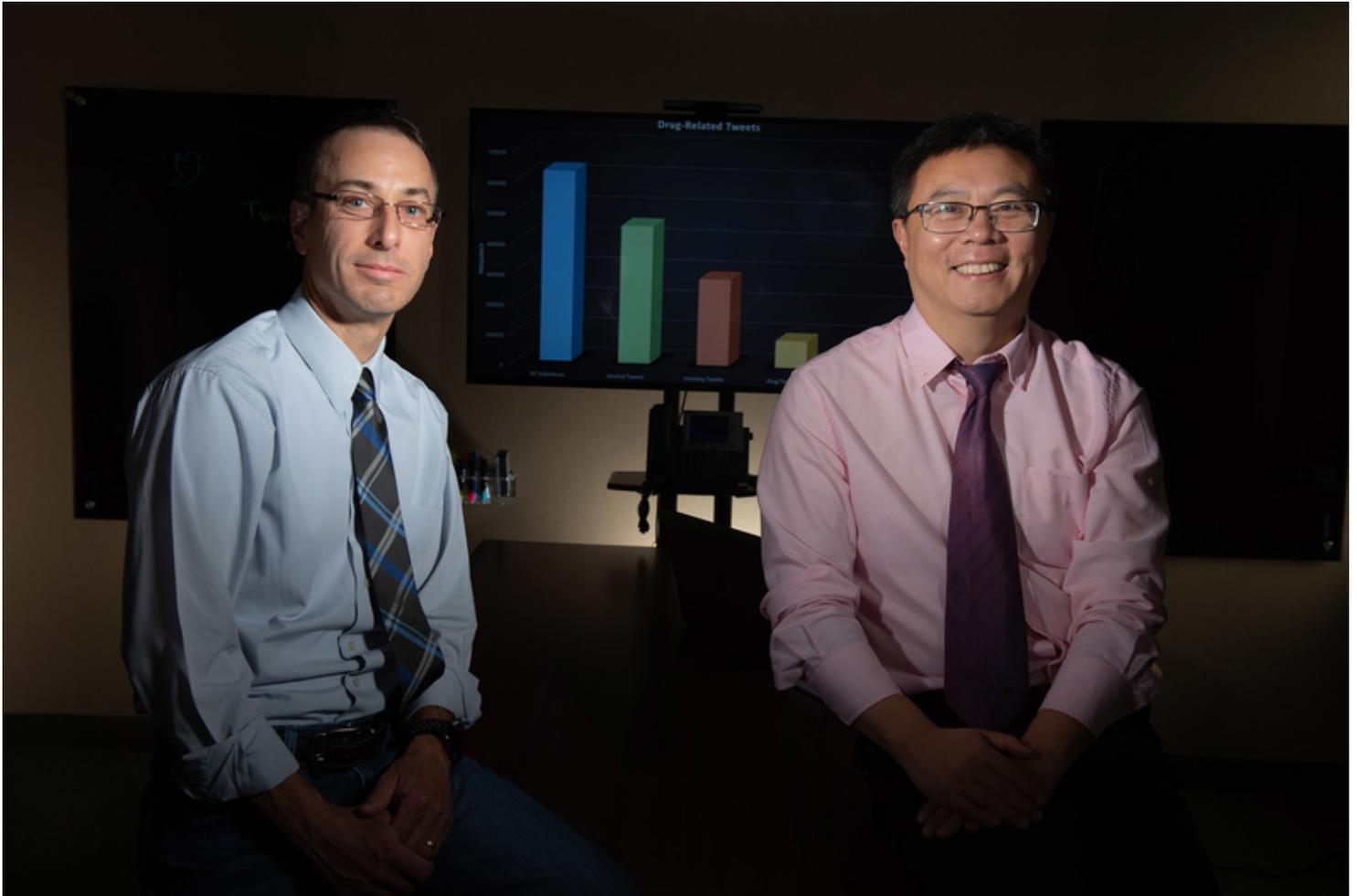


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## Kent State receives \$1.5 million grant to create drug prevention system in Portage, Geauga and Lake counties



**RACHEL ABBEY MCCAFFERTY**  
Manufacturing and Education



Kent State University

Kent State University associate professor of health policy and management Deric Kenne (left), and professor of computer science Ruoming Jin (right) will be working together to create a drug prevention infrastructure system.

Plus, learn about some new academic programs at the University of Akron, and meet John Carroll's new vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion.

An interdisciplinary team at [Kent State University](#) will create and implement a drug prevention system in Portage, Geauga and Lake counties.

The work will be supported by a five-year, \$1.5 million grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, according to a news release. The project is being led by Deric Kenne, associate professor of health policy and management in the university's College of Public Health, who received the grant with his team.

The Northeast Ohio Tri-County Prevention Infrastructure project will be housed in Kent State's Center for Public Policy and Health, but the work involves collaborating with professor of computer science Ruoming Jin and his team.

The project will aim to prevent and reduce the use of drugs and alcohol among children and young adults ages 9 to 20 in the participating counties by using a big data analytics system, the release said. With time, the system should be able to predict substance abuse trends.

The team will also work with Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services boards, county health departments and the Prevention Action Alliance.

"The ultimate goal of the project would be to develop and implement an accurate, sustainable and real-time substance use monitoring system that can detect substance use threats early so that state and community agencies can effectively respond with prevention efforts and significantly reduce substance abuse and related issues," Kenne said in the release. "This novel approach to drug prevention could ultimately become a model for other communities."

### **New program options at the University of Akron**

The University of Akron has rolled out or announced a number of new academic programs in recent weeks.

First up is the new blended online juris doctor program in its School of Law. The program, which will launch in the fall of 2020, is designed to make law school more accessible for part-time students. For the first two years of their four-year program, students will be able to take in-person classes just two nights a week, a [news release](#) stated. The rest of their coursework would be online.

The university's trustees also recently approved the addition of an online master of arts in strategic communication degree, according to an [email](#) to faculty and staff. The program will start with focus areas in strategic social media and health-risk communication and will grow to include areas in science communication and sports communication.

And Akron is now offering its master of social work program at Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery locations to help meet the growing need for providers, a [news](#)

[release](#) stated. The program started in fall 2019.

## University leadership news

- John Carroll University recently named a new vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion. Tiffany Galvin Green took on that role on Oct. 28, a [news release](#) stated. She will oversee the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, a new division for the university. Prior to joining John Carroll, Green worked at Vanderbilt University, where she served as assistant provost for inclusive excellence. She has also served as an adjunct or assistant professor at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts for the past 14 years.
- The University of Akron announced that D. Dane Quinn will continue serving as acting dean of its Drs. Gary B. and Pamela S. Williams Honors College. Quinn has been in that role since August, and he will continue through the 2019-20 academic year, according to an [email](#) to faculty and staff. Quinn is a professor of mechanical engineering and the associate dean for undergraduate research for the honors college.

Inline Play

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