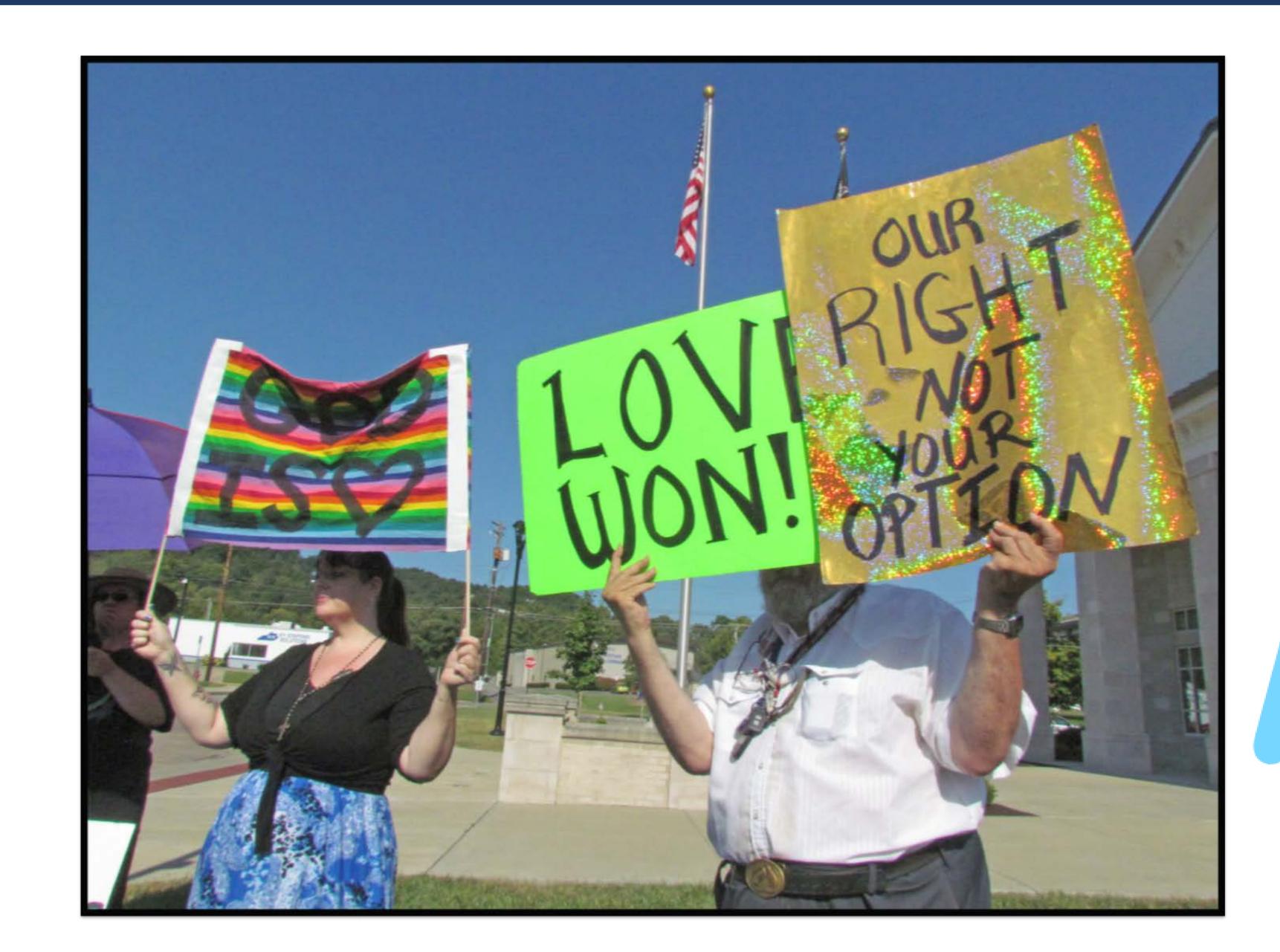
Morehead State University in the New Millennium: **Persisting Through Tough Times and Protecting Individual Rights**

Hard Times for Education

The 2000s have been characterized by a steady decrease in funding for higher education. Morehead was hit particularly hard and frequently received less funding from the state than other Kentucky schools of comparable size. Despite the decrease in funds, Morehead still saw the development of new programs and enrollment growth, which peaked at 11,358 in 2013. However, the effects of the decline of coal mining in eastern Kentucky coupled with rising tuition rates and a major, nation wide decrease in funding caused enrollment to lower again.

Fighting through the lack of funds, the campus still saw the addition of a few key buildings during this time including the Student Recreation Center, the Center for Health, Education, and Research, and the Space Science Center.









wide smoking ban. This is great for those non-smokers but what

Tobacco products have been proven as health risks and warnings not to use them are plasof MSU students still choose to use them. While a non-smoking campus would leave the air cleaner and our clothes free of smoke residue it would infringe on the rights of those who wish to smoke.

Equality for Everyone?

Although the university and the community were generally supportive of people of all sexual orientations, equality and rights came into question in 2015. Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis refused to sign marriage licenses despite the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage. Morehead faculty became involved in a lawsuit against her, and many university and community members came together to protect marriage rights. Morehead held its first Pride festival in 2016.

Following a trend of national concern over the health effects of smoking, Morehead began placing restrictions on tobacco in 2005. After a brief and shallow evaluation of student opinions about the campus's smoking policy, tobacco was completely banned in 2011. This upset many, and students rallied for change. Although it took time, the university restored smokers' rights and designated two smoking areas in 2013.

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> about the smokers? Don't they have rights

Equal opportunities and rights are something that has been emphasized in this country from its birth, so taking away the ability to smoke in 2009 doesn't really make much sense.

There is a no-smoking policy in buildings, and now they're wanting to place a similar policy on ing a cigarette shouldn't the open outdoors? How be excluded. would this be enforced? Think of the inconvenience to so many students. While I don't smoke, I don't believe those who do should be

punished.

Smokers sticking to the designated smoking areas would be greatly appreciated but as to the control over whether they choose to smoke, to each their own. We are told we can live our lives how we please, so something so small as smok-

I am not supporting the decision to smoke, just having the ability to decide whether or not you want to light up. After all this is a free country.

Violation of Rights?