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What Best Prepares Teachers for Success? University of Dayton Dean Co-Chairs Five-Years Statewide Study

UNIVERSITY of DAYTON

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NEWS RELEASE

WHAT BEST PREPARES TEACHERS FOR SUCCESS?
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON DEAN CO-CHAIRS FIVE-YEAR STATEWIDE STUDY

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton, University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University are leading a five-year statewide study that will recommend ways to better prepare teachers by better understanding the success of different types of teacher preparation practices.

The "Ohio Partnership for Accountability: The Impact of Teacher Education" study is initially funded by the Ohio Department of Education, Procter & Gamble and the Ohio Board of Regents and has the support of Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and a variety of Ohio professional education associations.

"It will be the only research of its type in the country and can serve as a model for teacher education reform," said Thomas Lasley, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions at the University of Dayton. "It will involve all of Ohio's universities and focus on a subset of school districts and the performance of students and teachers in those districts. We will not report on individual districts, teachers or programs, but we will use the data to understand the types of program components that need to be in place to improve teacher preparation practices."

In the study, researchers will measure the success of teachers who've received certification through alternative licensure programs. They will also team up with BattelleforKids, an Ohio organization that promotes education reform, to analyze which teaching methods are most effective in the classroom by studying teachers whose students

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achieved a level of 12-13 MGOe. They reached 18 in November, 31 in December and 35 on Jan. 21 — nearly one year ahead of projected schedule. Other worldwide attempts to create nanocomposite magnets so far have resulted in levels reaching only about 20 MGOe.

Because of the technical difficulties scientists encountered in this field, research in nanocomposite magnet technology elsewhere had dropped significantly, Liu said. "But because of the breakthrough here at UD, we expect to see a whole new wave of research," he added. Liu will present his team's latest achievements at the 2003 International Magnetics Conference March 30-April 3 in Boston.

Michael McHenry, professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, said the evolution of nanocomposite magnet technology from powders and ribbons to bulk materials "has been widely sought and anticipated." "The search for high-energy-product nanocomposite permanent magnets is the subject of worlwide efforts," McHenry said. "The magnetics community will be excited to learn the details of the UDRI team's accomplishments."

Rick Fingers, deputy for technology in the Air Force Research Laboratory's power division that partially sponsors UDRI's nanocomposite magnet research, agreed. "We are very excited to share in the researchers' most recent success with the development of a nanocomposite permanent magnet that is sure to revolutionize many military and commercial markets," Fingers said.

Liu said he and research partners Don Lee, senior researcher, and John Stanley Hilton, senior technician, "have been very fortunate that our sponsors have continued to support our work. The team's research is supported and managed by the AFRL and Office of Naval Research with funds from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The University of Dayton team is affiliated with DARPA's metamaterials team based at the University of Delaware.

Dayton is not only the birthplace of aviation, but also the birthplace of modern rare earth permanent magnets. Scientist Karl Strnat, who discovered the strong magnetic properties of a rare earth cobalt compound in 1966 while working at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, joined the University in 1968 and established the magnetics laboratory in UDRI. Strnat and researchers Alden Ray and Herbert Mildrum pioneered the research and development of the first and second generations of rare earth permanent magnets.

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