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Board of Trustees Approves Two Construction Projects: Science Complex Renovation and Children's Center Expansions

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Contact: Teri Rizvi
rizvi@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES TWO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS: SCIENCE COMPLEX RENOVATION AND CHILDREN'S CENTER EXPANSION

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton's board of trustees today gave its formal stamp of approval on more than \$20 million of campus renovations — a \$16.9 million addition to UD's science complex and a \$3.8 million conversion of the Children's Center into an early childhood education learning demonstration school.

In addition, trustees toured the newly constructed \$6.75 million Lawnview Apartments. The four-story brick building in the south student neighborhood will house 165 juniors and seniors beginning in August and help accommodate a surge in undergraduate enrollment. This is the third straight year UD has received record applications for its first-year class, prompting officials to create a waiting list.

In a groundbreaking ceremony fit for the occasion last month, toddlers with hard hats and sand-box shovels turned over the first spades of dirt for an expansion of UD's Children's Center, which will triple it in size. The 13,600-square-foot addition is expected to be completed in September 2001.

Work begins next May on the enlargement and renovation of the University's science complex, which is expected to be completed by August 2003. Approximately \$11 million will go to constructing a 47,500 square-foot-building between UD's two science buildings, Sherman and Wohlleben halls. The remainder of the funds will go to altering those buildings, including an extensive remodeling of the chemistry laboratories. Since 1993, UD has invested approximately \$7 million in rehabilitation and infrastructure upgrades in the two buildings.

"Our aggressive plan is to create a new science complex through a combination of new construction and renovation," said Paul Morman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

“Both Sherman Hall and its companion Wohlleben Hall were constructed in the heady days of expansion during the post-war boom of the 1950s. Both buildings have served us well. While primarily designed to support our science programs, both buildings have been aggressively utilized and adapted to serve a variety of research and instructional purposes over the years. Designed for another era, the wear and tear has taken its toll, and both buildings need serious attention if we hope to sustain the quality of our science programs.”

The renovation, which will bring all the science departments together under one roof, will include a 130-seat auditorium suitable for guest speakers; new labs that facilitate students working and learning in teams; and a park-like plaza facing the newly remodeled Miriam Hall.

The project is expected to be funded through University funds and \$4 million of private support.

With the renovation of the Children’s Center, which will serve as a preservice teaching site for students in UD’s early childhood education program, the center moves one step closer to gaining accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children — recognized in early childhood circles as one benchmark in quality.

“These plans are designed to take us to a state-of-the-art facility,” said William Drury, assistant dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions. “We’re trying, not only to meet the requirements for that type of facility, but to make it exemplary. It’s going to be, hopefully, a world-class operation.”

One innovative feature of the renovated center: a science focus, featuring more comprehensive use of water tables, gardening and growing areas, and natural light. When the children leave the study of science to play in the yard, they will find a world of natural wonder — a climbing tree, a hollowed-out tree trunk and a slide emerging from a hillside.

The center will be able to care for 120 children at a time, 35 more than it handles now. The project will be financed through University funds and \$1 million of private gifts, which have already been committed.

Both projects are part of UD’s Call to Lead fund-raising and image-building campaign. To date, UD has raised 71 percent — \$106.5 million — of its \$150 million goal.