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UNIVERSITY of



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NEWS RELEASE

LUCE FOUNDATION, MCGREGOR FUND, ALDEN TRUST SUPPORT FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, INNOVATIVE STUDENT PROJECTS

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton has received \$250,000 from national and regional foundations to support doctoral fellowships for women engineering students, stipends for student research and outreach projects in the College of Arts and Sciences, and scholarships for engineering students who need financial help.

It's all part of UD's \$150 million Call to Lead fund- and image-raising campaign. Announced in November, it's the largest effort in the school's history and has already attracted \$107.8 million in commitments.

Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, UD will award two \$50,000 two-year Clare Boothe Luce graduate fellowships to high-achieving women pursuing doctorates in engineering, starting in the fall of 2001.

"The Clare Boothe Luce graduate fellowships at the University of Dayton will increase the number of women with talent and ambition in a field where women continue to be under-represented," said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., UD president. "The University of Dayton has demonstrated an ongoing commitment and ability to create an environment for women engineering students to succeed."

In UD's graduate engineering programs, female enrollment is 16 percent, double the national average of 8 percent. UD's School of Engineering ranks third, behind the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan, in the number of women engineering students enrolled, according to 1998 statistics from the Engineering Workforce Commission of the American Society for Engineering Education. A more telling statistic: UD falls behind only MIT in the percentage of engineering degrees awarded to women (24 percent compared to 33 percent in 1998).

The late Henry R. Luce, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., established the Henry Luce Foundation in 1936. Based in New York, it has assets of about \$1 billion.

UD also has received a three-year \$100,000 grant from the McGregor Fund to expand

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UD's Learn, Lead, Serve program in the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1998, UD received \$100,000 from an anonymous donor that allowed 65 students to receive stipends for projects ranging from administering vision and hearing tests to Amish school children in Holmes County, Ohio, to tutoring students in Bangalore, India, to developing an environmental education program at Cox Arboretum. Some of the funding allowed students to travel to professional conferences with faculty to present research papers.

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." Located in Detroit, the McGregor Fund has granted more than \$110 million since its founding and has assets of \$200 million.

"With the grant from the McGregor Fund, we wish to take the Learn, Lead, Serve program to a new level by adding an academic credit requirement and by increasing the number of opportunities available to students to participate in the program," said Paul Morman, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "An excellent example of the kind of research project to be supported by this grant is the effort of several biology students who have been working with the city of Dayton's Five Rivers MetroPark on a project to map soil and vegetation data throughout the entire park system. Using sophisticated software, the students have prepared computerized maps that will help park managers to make better land management decisions."

With a gift of \$50,000 from the George I. Alden Trust, UD is establishing a scholarship fund to help "financially disadvantaged, academically promising students" in engineering. One or two scholarships will be awarded yearly.

Retention in engineering schools is a national problem. About half of the nation's engineering students leave the major before earning their degrees. The University of Dayton has raised its first-year retention rate from 70 percent in the early 1990s to 80 percent today through academic and social support programs and increased scholarship funds. UD's success has caught the attention of the National Science Foundation, which recently awarded a two-year, \$220,000 grant to provide scholarships for women and minority engineering students.

"The need to recruit, retain and graduate greater numbers of engineers to meet U.S. workforce needs is widely acknowledged in higher education," Fitz said. "Because many of our students need scholarship support to complete their degree programs, the George I. Alden Trust's grant will help fund a critical component of our recruitment and retention strategy."

The George I. Alden Trust, established in 1912, is located in Worcester, Mass.

For media interviews, contact **Jan Lively**, assistant vice president for foundation relations, at (937) 229-2907; **Blake Cherrington**, dean of the School of Engineering, at (937) 229-2736; and **Paul Morman**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, at (937) 229-2601.