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NEWS RELEASE

A MARK OF ACADEMIC QUALITY: PREMIERE AGENCY REAFFIRMS BUSINESS SCHOOL'S ACCREDITATION

DAYTON, Ohio — The premiere accrediting body for business schools globally has extended the University of Dayton School of Business Administration's accreditation for six years.

In granting the extension, peer review teams of business school deans and accounting educators praised UD's innovative curriculum, strong ties with the business community and its focus on ethics.

UD officials say reaffirmation of accreditation is a significant accomplishment because AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accredits only slightly more than half of its more than 900 members. UD's accreditation covers all undergraduate degrees and the MBA program, including an innovative 150-hour program for accounting majors that leads to both a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA.

"AACSB International accreditation is the bar for quality in business schools," said Patricia Meyers, dean of the School of Business Administration. "Business schools that seek accreditation undergo a rigorous, comprehensive peer assessment study, so accreditation represents a real mark of academic excellence. It's a tribute to our faculty, who offer innovative approaches to business learning and practice to our students."

In accreditation reports, the peer review teams pointed out a number of notable curricular and outreach efforts:

- A highly integrated curriculum, evidenced by integrated courses in finance, marketing and operations on the undergraduate level and team-taught courses in the MBA program.
- A focus on ethics, illustrated by "Walk the Talk," a program that brings together undergraduates, faculty and local business leaders to discuss case studies that

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explore issues of ethics and corporate responsibility.

- Strong ties to the business community, including the recruitment of a number of executives-in-residence and advisory groups that help shape the curriculum and provide students with approximately 50 real-world consulting team opportunities with businesses annually.
- A flagship program in finance that prepares undergraduates for jobs in major financial management firms, offers students practical experience managing real money through the Davis Center for Portfolio Management and brings national visibility to the school through an innovative annual symposium co-sponsored by the New York Stock Exchange, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNBC and Deutsche Asset Management.
- A strong placement rate of accounting graduates, of which 90 percent are employed within six months after graduation. Among those, 70 percent join national accounting firms.

At the undergraduate level, enrollment in the School of Business Administration has climbed nearly 50 percent since 1996, and interest remains high. Applications for the first-year class are currently running nearly 17 percent over last year at the same time, and seat deposits are up 31 percent.

The University of Dayton's School of Business Administration, which has been accredited since 1983, enrolls 1,600 full-time undergraduates and 450 MBA students. UD also offers non-degree seminars in executive education through the Center for Leadership and Executive Development.

Accredited AACSB International institutions commit to a "continuous process of improvement," including an annual report, an annual summary of strategic planning and a peer review of strategic process every five years, according to Meyers. To be accredited, a business school must satisfy 21 standards that set guiding principles for strategic management; faculty, staff and student participants; and assurance of learning through regular assessment.

AACSB International is a not-for-profit organization of more than 900 educational organizations and corporations. Its mission is excellence in management education in colleges and universities. Headquartered in St. Louis, AACSB International is the premiere accrediting agency and service organization for business schools.