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University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

**AVOIDING RESEGREGATION IN DAYTON SCHOOLS
 WILL BE EXPLORED IN UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON SESSION**

DAYTON, Ohio — Key players and experts will come together Sept. 24 at the University of Dayton to explore ideas to help Dayton Public Schools avoid the resegregation experienced by other cities where court-ordered busing has ended.

The NAACP lawsuit that led to busing in the Dayton school district was settled in April.

"What we're trying to do is explore the reasons behind the original court case and lay the groundwork for the next steps," said Thomas J. Lasley II, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions at UD. "Resegregation of schools leads to an increase in achievement gaps between black and white students. We need to enhance the status of all students and decrease the achievement gaps, and this will be a general discussion of how to achieve that goal."

The session, to be held in the Mathias Heck courtroom in Keller Hall, will run from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24. It's free and open to the public.

Daniel J. Curran, president of UD, will open the program, followed at 9:15 a.m. by Charles J. Russo, the Joseph Panzer professor of education at UD, who will talk about the legal history of school desegregation. At 10:15 a.m., Dwight Washington, attorney with Washington & Hollingsworth, and Joseph L. Watras, UD professor of teacher education, will present an analysis of school desegregation in Dayton.

Lasley will moderate a panel discussion at 11 a.m. with Ellen Belcher, editor of the editorial pages at the *Dayton Daily News*; Gail Littlejohn, president of the Dayton Board of Education; Jessie Gooding, president of the Dayton chapter of the NAACP; and Miley O. Williamson, executive secretary of the NAACP.

Walter H. Rice, chief judge, U.S. District Court, will offer comments at noon.

A report released in August by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University found that moderate to large-sized public school districts across the country are becoming more segregated for African-American and Latino students.