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Call to Lead Campaign Transforms University of Dayton Through Curricular Innovations, Scholarship Support, Facilities

University of Dayton

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NEWS RELEASE

CALL TO LEAD CAMPAIGN TRANSFORMS UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON THROUGH CURRICULAR INNOVATIONS, SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT, FACILITIES

DAYTON, Ohio — It's easy to look around the University of Dayton campus and see the fruits of UD's ambitious \$150 million fund-raising and image-building campaign.

Take the School of Business Administration as just one example. In May, the University of Dayton will graduate its first crop of students from its newly launched entrepreneurship program. New MBA enrollment stands at a 10-year high, making UD's program the largest in the region. These students take classes in Miriam Hall, which recently underwent a \$10 million renovation to equip it with team laboratories, 400 data outlets and brand-new centers, such as the Center for Portfolio Management, where finance students manage \$1 million of real money, and the L. William Crotty Business Center, which serves as a modern meeting and gathering space. The School of Business Administration has endowed professorships in every business discipline and, in the past year alone, its students and faculty have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Business Week*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *the Financial Times* and *CNBC*, among other national media.

The University of Dayton has set new records in private giving, increased its reputation and experienced remarkable expansion in facilities and educational programs during the six-year "Call to Lead" campaign, which closes June 30.

"We obviously knew when we set the goal at \$150 million that we were challenging ourselves to a level we only dreamed about at one time," said Thomas J. Danis, chair and chief executive officer of the Danis Companies who co-chaired the campaign with William Bombeck. "This campaign took us to the national level."

Today, with the announcement of a historic campaign commitment of \$17.5 million from the Cincinnati Province of the Society of Mary (the Marianists), the University of Dayton topped its campaign goal. It's received \$153 million in commitments — and climbing. To date, UD has received a record 56,000 gifts from donors in every state in the nation and 20 countries. About one-third of alumni gift commitments have come from Dayton, where 25 percent of UD's

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86,000 alumni live.

“When I look at how this campaign has transformed the University of Dayton, I see learning that reaches out into the world,” said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president. “We invested nearly \$10 million into wiring the campus neighborhoods and creating a campus-wide technological infrastructure, so that we could turn to our supporters and raise money for such innovations as the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center, the Center for Portfolio Management, the Center for Leadership in Community, the Bombeck Family Learning Center, Joseph E. Keller Hall and the Donoher Center. This is a story about how the University of Dayton has been able to connect its learning and scholarship to the community, to the world.

“We are grateful to the thousands of alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, foundations and corporations who listened to our dream of national leadership in Catholic higher education — and supported it. Together, we have pushed UD to new levels of innovation.”

Although the University of Dayton won’t officially close its campaign for two months, here’s a snapshot of how this effort has helped transform the campus:

- **Stronger faculty.** UD has now created endowed chairs and professorships in every academic unit with gifts from individuals and corporate partner NCR.
- **Healthier endowment.** Endowment has grown by more than 50 percent from \$177 million to \$275 million, placing UD eighth among all Catholic colleges and universities who reported to the National Association of College and University Business Officers in 2001. The biggest boost: scholarship endowment, which has increased by more than \$37 million. The money is being used to increase diversity, provide access for students who wouldn’t be able to attend a private university, attract high-caliber students and improve athletic competitiveness.
- **Innovative curricula.** The “New Engineer” curriculum, for instance, provides engineering students with technical expertise and focuses on instilling improved critical thinking, interpersonal, teaming and leadership skills as well as a stronger commitment to serving society through their profession.
- **Improved facilities.** From the School of Law’s Joseph E. Keller Hall, which stands as a new landmark at the entrance of campus, to the Bombeck Family Learning Center, an expanded child-care center that now serves as a pre-service teaching site for UD’s early childhood education students, the mark is obvious. UD officials built the Donoher Basketball Center at UD Arena and, just last week, broke ground on a science center that combines and modernizes its two science buildings. The new Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center, a laboratory of innovation for learning and teaching, is a model for introducing new technologies into the curriculum, and the Learning Living Arts Center, still on the drawing boards, will enrich both the intellectual and residential experience of students in the campus neighborhood. Major renovation projects have included Miriam Hall, home of the School of Business Administration, and Liberty Hall, home to campus ministry.

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- Stronger Catholic and Marianist identity. Initiatives have included the establishment of a Ph.D. program in theology with a focus on the U.S. Catholic experience, the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, programs to promote UD's Catholic intellectual tradition and scholarships for students from Marianist high schools around the country. Funded through a \$2 million Lilly Endowment, the Program in Christian Leadership prepares undergraduates to take on leadership roles in their churches and in society.
- Focus on service-learning, here and abroad. The Center for Leadership in Community facilitates the work of hundreds of students and professors in neighborhoods, schools and across the community on issues such as poverty, the "digital divide," neighborhood redevelopment and racial tensions. The Hull International Fellows Fund gives students the opportunity to travel abroad to conduct research and participate in international conferences and service-learning programs. During the "Call to Lead" campaign, the Templeton Foundation recognized UD as having one of the nation's best service-learning programs that encourages students to contribute and learn through volunteer activity.
- Increased reputation. Test scores stand at an all-time high and for the past three falls, UD has instituted a waiting list for its first-year class. It ranks among the 20 most-wired campuses in the country and tops all other universities in Ohio, according to *Yahoo! Internet Life*. UD now ranks as a national doctoral university, with the School of Business Administration placing among the top 50 private undergraduate business schools in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The University of Dayton's teacher education program is one of the best in the state, according to the Ohio Department of Education.

Alumni participation continues to grow. Annual giving reached more than 26 percent last year, up from 13 percent three years ago, putting UD fourth among Catholic universities in alumni giving, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* national doctoral university category.

"The Call to Lead campaign has expanded the University of Dayton's sights and solidified its reputation as one of the nation's outstanding Catholic universities," Fitz said. "Through its success, the University of Dayton has soared to new heights of quality and innovation."