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University of Dayton, Ohio

Connecting the Future

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The National Science Foundation awarded the University of Dayton nearly a quarter-million dollars to expand its campus computer network by 10 times and link researchers around the state.

The project will build a high-performance research computer network at the University to provide unimpeded connections to other research institutions via state and national high-capacity networks. The connections, which will be up to 10 gigabytes per second, will be among the University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, The Ohio State University, the Ohio Supercomputer Center, and regional high schools through OARnet's IntraOhio.

"Building and sustaining a network of this caliber is an important component in advancing a vision for a far-reaching research infrastructure," said Tom Skill, University of Dayton chief information officer and principal investigator for the project. "These improvements will enable our scientists and engineers to better connect and share data regardless of its size or complexity, provide robust STEM educational outreach, contribute to high-value workforce development and create cost-effective models for sharing scarce scientific resources."

Andrew Sarangan, University of Dayton electro-optics professor, will work with Sinclair Community College through the network to develop new ways of learning in STEM fields, including nanotechnology.

"This work engages young learners and their teachers in cutting-edge areas of technology, thereby encouraging our next generation of outstanding researchers," Skill said.

Vijay Asari, Ohio Research Scholars Chair in Wide Area Surveillance and University of Dayton Vision Lab director, will use the network with Central State University to send, receive and store tremendous amounts of data for their work in sensors, imaging, automatic scene analysis and three-dimensional movement analysis.

Shuang-Ye Wu, University of Dayton associate professor of geology, will analyze massive data sets involving climate-change and precipitation models through the remote use of the Ohio Supercomputer Center.

Charles Browning, chair of the University of Dayton chemical and materials engineering department, will access Ohio State's Center for Electron Microscopy and Analysis.

"High-precision manipulation of material samples in microscopes hosted at Ohio State is an outstanding example of sharing of scarce and expensive scientific resources," Skill said.

The total cost of the project is $232,788 and includes installing hardware and upgrading distribution and access layers at the University of Dayton and hardware upgrades for science DMZ connections at Central State University.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.