Building Community

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The University of Dayton takes pride in its commitment to community, and in these tough economic times strength of community is even more important.

The university will host the CityLinks 2013 Neighborhood Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 12 at the 1700 S. Patterson Building.

The 28th annual conference will focus on building relationships to strengthen inner-city neighborhoods. With local factories closing down, banks no longer approving loans and many basic services withdrawn, building relationships within a community is the key element to neighborhood vitality.

Ohio State Representative Mike Foley (D-Cleveland) will deliver the keynote address. Foley is currently a member of the House Finance Committee and ranking member of the House Finance Health and Human Services subcommittee. Rep. Foley has worked on issues including foreclosures, alternative energy, the environment, cable deregulation, Medicaid expansion, retiree benefits, consumer rights and tax code reform.

CityLinks participants can attend two of three targeted workshops focused on the conference theme "Building Relationships:"

- Church and School Partnerships
- Restorative Justice
- Cultural Inclusion

Attendees will also have a chance to tour the new RiverMobile, a traveling exhibit converted from a semi-trailer that highlights the history, benefits and preservation of the Great Miami River watershed. It is the creation of students in the University's Rivers Institute with generous support from local donors.

The CityLinks conference is designed to connect local residents with prominent community leaders to revitalize neighborhoods and empower grassroots leadership. Also during the conference, the University of Dayton will announce the winner of the 15th annual Mattie Davis and Joe Kanak Community Builders Award, given to an area resident who exemplifies vision and compassion toward neighborhood or community.

CityLinks is sponsored by the University of Dayton's Fitz Center for Leadership in Community with support from the Dayton Power and Light Foundation.

For more information on CityLinks, contact Char Cook Robinson at 937-229-4641 or charcookrobinson@notes.udayton.edu.