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A Leader in Research

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01.10.2013 | Research

John Leland has been named associate vice president for research at the University of Dayton. Leland retains his role and title as director of the University of Dayton Research Institute.

Leland joined the Research Institute in 2000 as director of technology partnerships, responsible for the protection and licensing of the University's patents and other intellectual property. In 2003 he was named head of the materials engineering division and in 2004 was promoted to associate director for research operations. Leland was promoted again in 2005 to director. Under his leadership, the Research Institute has maintained strong growth during a period of federal, state and industry cutbacks in research, with significant expansion of its research efforts in materials, sensors, and advanced and alternative energies. For 10 years, it has ranked second among all universities and colleges in the nation for sponsored research in materials.

Leland also has helped increase productive collaborative research efforts between professional researchers in the institute and academic researchers in the University's School of Engineering and College of Arts and Sciences, said Mickey McCabe, vice president for research and executive director of the University of Dayton Research Institute. "In his new role, John will work to further enhance and expand collaborative research efforts. He has demonstrated a commitment and dedication to our research business and the people who make us successful. He has provided valuable leadership to UDRI as well as to the Dayton region."

Leland played a key role in bringing GE Aviation's Dayton Electrical Power Research Lab to Dayton and helped drive the effort to establish the region's Ohio Aerospace Hub. He serves on boards for the Ohio Aerospace Hub as well as the National Composite Center and Engineers Club in Dayton.

Leland regularly works with local, state and federal government and economic development organizations to support regional technology-based economic development initiatives. He routinely develops and presents testimony to House and Senate Congressional committees in advocacy of science and engineering education and research funding.

For more information, contact Teri Rizvi at 937-229-3255 or rizvi@udayton.edu.