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Advancing the University of Dayton

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Dave Harper, associate vice president for athletics, has been named interim vice president for University advancement at the University of Dayton.

"He brings excellent strategic planning, fundraising and relationship-building skills to the position," said Daniel J. Curran, University of Dayton president.

In the athletics program, Harper served as the men's basketball administrator and oversaw external relations for the division, including fundraising, marketing and sales, brand strategy and multimedia contracts, among other areas. He helped hire a number of successful coaches.

In his new role, Harper will lead a staff of 64 in development, alumni outreach, special events, information technology and other support areas. He will focus on increasing private support and alumni engagement, developing strategies for growth, and building and retaining a high-performance team.

"Dave has proven himself as a leader at the University of Dayton," said Allen Hill, chair of the board of trustees. "He's energetic, dedicated and skilled. We believe he can meet the challenges of fundraising in what's become a very competitive environment."

The University of Dayton's 37 domestic and international alumni chapters offer ways for more than 100,000 alumni around the globe to stay connected with their alma mater — through participating in events like Reunion Weekend and Christmas off Campus, recruiting students or networking. As a private university, the University of Dayton relies on philanthropic contributions from alumni and friends to support scholarships, create innovative academic programs, hire nationally prominent faculty and build modern facilities. Last fiscal year, the University of Dayton raised $29.5 million in gift commitments.

"I greatly appreciate the appointment to serve in this capacity at the University. The advancement organization is filled with opportunity and strong people. As a team, we will build upon a strong foundation and help advance the University as a top institution both nationally and internationally," Harper said.

Harper succeeds Deborah Read, who joined Cal Poly as vice president for university advancement and CEO of the Cal Poly Foundation on Jan. 1.

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