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Living in a Materials World

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Living in a Materials World

10.20.2010 | President, Research

A recently released National Science Foundation report shows the University of Dayton performs more federally sponsored materials research than any other college or university in the U.S.

The University takes the top spot from Pennsylvania State University.

"We've developed a core strength and great expertise in materials over 50 years," said Allan Crasto, Research Institute associate director. "We provide a valuable service to our federal and commercial customers and have developed a national reputation for innovative but practical solutions to materials challenges."

The University held the No. 2 spot in federally funded materials research since 1999, except for 2005 when it was No. 1. Federal sponsors include the Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Energy and numerous other government agencies.

The University ranks second nationally in all materials research, which includes funding from industry and other sources, as well as federally funded research.

Each year, the NSF reports on academic research and development expenditures, comparing institutions of higher education in science, engineering and other research fields. The University's other notable rankings, according to data for fiscal year 2009, include: No. 11 in the nation for all federally sponsored engineering research, No. 8 in the nation for all research sponsored by the Department of Defense, No. 1 in Ohio for all sponsored materials research and for federally sponsored engineering research, No. 2 in Ohio for all sponsored STEM research.

The University of Dayton conducts research in the development, characterization, production, scale up, testing and qualification of new materials primarily through the University of Dayton Research Institute. It has strong capabilities in material substitution, corrosion, erosion, degradation and failure analysis, as well as composites, high-temperature materials, coatings, material repairs, corrosion protection, sealants and elastomers, according to Crasto.

Seventy six percent of the University's total research volume of \$96.5 million in 2009 was federally funded.

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