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Sign of the Times

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The University of Dayton erected its familiar brown metal "University of Dayton, Established 1850" sign today at the roadway entrance of the University's newest campus building, 1700 South Patterson Building.

The sign is the most visible mark establishing the University as the proud owner of the nearly 400-acre campus, on which sits the 455,000-square foot former Fortune 500 corporate headquarters of NCR Corp.

"This building makes a statement about the forward-thinking nature of the University of Dayton," said Daniel J. Curran, president. "The possibilities for academics, research and alumni outreach are tremendous. We plan to move in a careful, thoughtful, yet bold, way to convert the property into a landmark for the University of Dayton and the region."

Ohio's largest private university took occupancy July 1 and a flurry of behind-the-scenes activity has been taking place to ready the transition of the building into a stunning academic and research facility. For the past three months, crews have been installing nearly five miles of high-speed fiber optic cable underground from the College Park Center at the corner of Brown and Stewart streets to the 1700 South Patterson Building. This powerful technological infrastructure will allow for high-end computing and low-cost telecommunications using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology. It will be the first use of this technology on campus.

The University also is renovating the building's 17 classrooms in preparation for graduate classes, which will be phased in during the fall. Students in the MBA and some programs in the School of Education and Allied Professions will start classes in August on the core campus, with select classes gradually moving over to the 1700 South Patterson Building.

During the next 18 months, the University of Dayton Research Institute will gradually transfer additional operations to the building as labs are built, creating a highly visible home for the University's rapidly growing sponsored research portfolio that is nearing $100 million annually.

As part of the University's master plan, the Caldwell Street Center is on track to be demolished in October. The 1700 South Patterson Building will initially house the research functions that reside in the Caldwell Street Center, including the Center for Competitive Change and four research groups from the Research Institute's sensor systems and aerospace mechanics divisions.

The University announced the $18 million acquisition of NCR's former world headquarters and 115 acres in December. It's the first time a university has ever purchased a Fortune 500 headquarters.

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