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A Center of Excellence

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Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut today announced Tuesday, July 6, the University of Dayton will be home to two Ohio Centers of Excellence in Advanced Transportation and Aerospace.

The University's centers will focus on high-performance materials and optoelectronics and sensors.

The University of Dayton ranks second nationally in materials research. The graduate materials engineering program ranked third in the nation according to the latest Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index.

The University also has the only doctoral optics program in Ohio and one of a handful in the nation. The program features the Ladar and Optical Communications Institute, which allows students to conduct research and learn in the nation's first Air Force-funded ladar center.

The announcement brings the number of Ohio Centers of Excellence at the University to five. In October, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland named the von Ohain Fuels and Combustion Center and the Center for Strategic Energy and Environmental Informatics as Ohio Centers of Excellence in Advanced Energy. The University's Center for Tissue Regeneration and Engineering at Dayton (TREND) received the designation as an Ohio Center of Excellence in Biomedicine and Health Care in March.

On July 6, Fingerhut announced seven Ohio Centers of Excellence in Advanced Transportation and Aerospace at six universities.

"In competing for outside research funding, top faculty and high-tech jobs, it is critical for Ohio's colleges and universities to focus their unique strengths to incite innovation and keep fast-growing companies and talent in our state," Fingerhut said. "The Centers of Excellence in Advanced Transportation and Aerospace do precisely that and will help drive the state's higher education network's goal of being the best in the nation at spurring economic growth."

The Centers of Excellence, as outlined in Ohio's 10-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education, will position the University System of Ohio as a magnet for talent and a leader in innovation and entrepreneurial activity. The centers will develop distinct missions for each institution and eliminate unnecessary competition for resources, students and faculty within the state.

The University of Dayton is Ohio's largest private university and not part of the University System of Ohio. It ranks among the nation's top 10 Catholic universities.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.