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Playing to Our Strengths

09.11.2009 | Engineering, President, Hot Topics Recognizing the Dayton region's long-standing status as a leader in aerospace and aviation, coupled with the University of Dayton Research Institute's success in aerospace-related research and technology-based economic development, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland announced the University will be the lead partner organization for the first Ohio Hub of Innovation and Opportunity.

"After decades of serving as one of the nation's premier aerospace and aviation locations, the Dayton region officially becomes Ohio's Aerospace Hub," Strickland said during a ceremony at the University of Dayton School of Engineering's Innovation Center on Sept. 8.

OHIO Hubs, part of the Ohio Department of Development's strategic plan for economic development, are designed to leverage Ohio's regional assets and drive long-term economic growth in Ohio. Within OHIO Hubs, the state will offer resources to improve physical space and foster new business investment, including entrepreneurial and productivity assistance, capital access and technology development.

Strickland said the Dayton area received the first hub designation because of its intellectual power, workforce, research capabilities, business community and local leadership. Other aerospace hub partners include the city of Dayton, Montgomery County, the Dayton Development Coalition and City Wide Development Corp., among others.

"I have great confidence that the University and its Research Institute are well-poised to play a strong role in helping to remake this region through the development and commercialization of new technologies," University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran said. "By leveraging the University's world-class research and academic leadership in materials and sensors along with the resources and skills brought by other partners, together we can create a magnetic and vibrant environment to attract college graduates, entrepreneurs, business persons, and investors seeking opportunity."

The University already has a proven track record in this area. It leads one of the state's most successful Wright Centers of Innovation — the Institute for the Design and Commercialization of Advanced Sensors Technology. In the past two-and-a-half years, IDCAST has helped create nearly 250 jobs.

The University of Dayton leads all Ohio universities in aerospace research for the U.S. Department of Defense. The University is second in the nation for materials research. Composite materials are a major component in today's aviation research. The University also is home to the Ladar and Optical Communications Institute, which works on technology for aviation applications as well.

The University of Dayton is a top-tier national research university and among the nation's top 10 Catholic universities.

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