Supporting Urban Education

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Supporting Urban Education

10.27.2008 | President, Campus and Community

Kurt Stanic, interim superintendent of Dayton Public Schools, will talk about the district's need for a 4.9 mill operating levy at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, in the Torch Lounge in Kennedy Union at the University of Dayton.

The campus and community are invited to the presentation.

Issue 52 will be on the ballot Nov. 4. The school district cut $30 million from its budget when a larger 15.17 mill levy failed in 2007. School officials say this levy will generate $9.3 million annually and cost the average homeowner $8 a month.

"I realize the very real financial challenges families in our community face. Now, more than ever, it's important to step up and support all of our schools — urban and suburban — because the economic future of our community depends upon it, said Daniel J. Curran, president of the University of Dayton. "Because our community must succeed, because of the commitment of the University of Dayton and its Marianist founders to education and to justice, I am strongly committed to efforts throughout the region to improve our schools and am especially committed to supporting the Dayton Public Schools’ Issue 52."

UD has a strong history of supporting urban education — Catholic, public and charter schools. The Urban Teacher Academy prepares teachers for urban classrooms. Students in the Lalanne Program teach for at least two years in an urban Catholic school, live together in a faith community and receive free tuition for master's degree courses taken during the summers. The Dayton Early College Academy, founded in partnership with the Dayton Public Schools in 2003, has received national attention for the way it's preparing high school students to earn a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit. Every graduate has been accepted to college. DECA is the first early college high school in Ohio and the only charter school in the nation operated by a Catholic university.

Thomas Lasley, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions, and Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., former president of the University of Dayton, serve as two of the 12 honorary co-chairs representing civic, community and religious leaders who support the levy.