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Enhancing Opportunities for Women in STEM

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The University of Dayton is among a four-university regional partnership that will share in nearly \$2.86 million to increase the number of women faculty in the science, technology, engineering and math areas and in related industries within the region.

UD, Wright State University, Central State University and the Air Force Institute of Technology will form the Launching Equity in the Academy across the Dayton Entrepreneurial Region (LEADER) consortium. Wright State is the lead institution for the five-year program.

The group will monitor progress toward recruitment, retention and successful advancement of women in STEM disciplines. The project's partners hope the consortium, combined with the Dayton region's quality of life, will create a sustainable woman-friendly STEM community for attracting the best talent.

UD plans to use its funding to further study the climate for women faculty on UD's campus comparative to the other partners in this grant. "That is so the partner institutions can learn from one another," said Malcolm Daniels, interim dean of the UD School of Engineering.

"It allows us to continue our focused efforts on ensuring we can recruit, retain and advance women faculty in the STEM fields," Daniels added. "It will help us compete effectively to recruit women faculty and provide an environment conducive to their professional advancement."

Some of UD's funding will enhance grants for research and sabbatical support and develop more effective mentoring programs for women faculty.

The project's partners include David Goldstein and Tamera Schneider at Wright State; Joseph Saliba, Malcolm Daniels, Peggy Desautels and Jayne Robinson at UD; Kimberly Kendricks at Central State; and Heidi Ries at AFIT.

Other ADVANCE-funded institutions include the University of Michigan, Duke University, Cornell University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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