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Dining With Scribes

10.09.2008 | President

Nearly 30 members of the national media joined a discussion with a dozen college and university presidents, including University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran, at the 21st annual national higher education media dinner at the Penn Club in New York City Oct. 2.


Much of the conversation, at times spirited and covering a variety of topics, centered on the country’s economic woes and how higher education is dealing with the challenges.

Curran fielded questions about endowment, applied vs. basic research, and sustainability.

"Our earlier discussions about sustainability were more idealistic," he told reporters. "We're now looking at sustainability as a way to bring about cost savings. If you do it right, there are cost savings."

The 21st annual national higher education media dinner was hosted by Arizona State University and moderated by ASU President Michael Crow. Other presidents in attendance included David Skorton (Cornell University), John Casteen III (University of Virginia), Mark Emmert (University of Washington), William Powers Jr. (University of Texas), Debora Spar (Barnard College/Columbia University), Alice Gast (Lehigh University), John Bassett (Clark University), Robert Holub (Chancellor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Shirley Kenney (State University of New York-Stony Brook), Jolene Koester (California State University-Northridge) and Joel Seligman (University of Rochester).

Curran participated in the event as part of UD’s strategy to increase national media attention for its people and programs. Recent national media placements include an appearance by UD historian John Heitmann on ABC World News With Charles Gibson as part of the network's view of life in battleground states; a BBC Radio interview with former Ohio Gov. Bob Taft about the upcoming election; a full-page feature on UD's branding effort in The Chronicle of Higher Education; a mention in USA Today about first-year enrollment success; and a U.S. News & World Report story on schools that aren't household names but "have first-rate programs and strong reputations."