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UD to Share in $70 Million to Help Spur Ohio Economy

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The University of Dayton and five other Ohio universities are in line to share state of Ohio grants totaling nearly $70 million to help spur technology-based research and economic development in Ohio.

According to Mickey McCabe, UD's vice president for research, the University's portion should be about 25 percent of the $70 million. Part of UD's award will establish three fully endowed professorships within the Ohio Research Scholars program.

The Ohio Research Scholars program is designed to attract senior research talent and develop facilities, equipment and partnerships to establish high-level research in the state. In turn, that research is to create commercially viable products and jobs for Ohioans.

One of UD's research scholars will contribute to a UD-led program worth nearly $23.5 million in partnership with The Ohio State University, Wright State University and Miami University to develop the Ohio Academic Research Cluster for Layered Sensing. UD was the only private university in the state tapped to lead a project.

Layered sensing puts multiple data from a group of sensors into one view. Sensors are used to generate and evaluate high-definition images for medical, law enforcement, geographic information services, environmental, agricultural, military, and security applications.

Another Ohio Research Scholar set for UD will help the University of Cincinnati and The Ohio State University focus on aircraft propulsion systems, emissions, aerodynamics and heat transfer; and coal-to-fuel conversion and other alternative fuels research. About $27.3 million is recommended for this partnership.

The third Ohio Research Scholar will assist The Ohio State University and the University of Akron with accelerating materials innovation. More than $18 million is slated for this partnership.

"This is a great win for the University of Dayton. These awards recognize UD's ability to create important research outcomes for the state of Ohio," McCabe said. "And, it recognizes UD's contributions to the three growing areas of research technology in Ohio, namely materials, energy and sensors technology."

UD currently does considerable sensors research through the UD Ladar and Optical Communications Institute and Institute for the Development and Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology.

UD is second in the nation in performing materials research, according to the National Science Foundation.

In all, the Ohio Department of Development awarded more than $143 million to 15 Ohio universities or centers for 10 different Ohio Research Scholar partnerships. The awards are contingent upon State Controlling Board approval.

The program is jointly funded and administered by the Ohio Department of Development and the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents.

"Our department's support and the Ohio Board of Regents' support of these projects solidifies our commitment to bringing state-of-the-art talent to Ohio and also reinforces the important relationship between cutting-edge research and long-term economic development objectives," Ohio Lieutenant Governor and Ohio Department of Development Director Lee Fisher said in an announcement made Tuesday, May 20.

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