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The Western Electric Company Gives Check to the University of Dayton

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DAYTON, Ohio, November 15, 1971 --- The University of Dayton recently received from the Western Electric Company a check for $1,250 with which it has purchased a laser for undergraduate instruction. The University has been participating in the company's equipment gift program, wherein the company bestows gifts on "colleges with whom we have a close community of interest."

Although the University has not participated in this program before, it has worked with the Western Electric Company in such matters as a fellowship for one engineering student each year.

The Electrical Engineering Department was chosen this year as the recipient of the gift on the basis of a competitive proposal sent to Western Electric Company. The check was given on the condition that the equipment purchased would be used solely for undergraduate instruction.

The laser is a Spectra-Physics Model 120, of the Helium-Neon gas type. Since there is some risk in using this type of laser, the department also purchased a protective device.

Says Dean Maurice Graney of the School of Engineering, "The laser is a fine teaching device. Students often have difficulty connecting complex mathematics with physical reality. The laser gives them a chance to see some of the mathematics principles at work. Since the laser is also coming into use in industry and medicine, the school feels that it is valuable to give the students some experience with the equipment before they go out into the industrial world."

Dean Graney continues: "The laser is being used for drilling holes in steel, for cauterizing in-depth tissue in medicine, and for communicating, where it is used in much the same manner as radio waves. Although the laser is relatively new, already its uses are so widespread that most major companies and up-to-date laboratories have them. Therefore, it is important that the University graduates its students with some knowledge of laser technology."

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