

1-22-1988

UD Study Recommends New Programs for "At-Risk" Youth

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Recommended Citation

"UD Study Recommends New Programs for "At-Risk" Youth" (1988). *News Releases*. 4867.
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The University of Dayton

UD STUDY RECOMMENDS
NEW PROGRAMS FOR "AT-RISK" YOUTH

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, January 22, 1988--A group of University of Dayton honors students has prepared a study aimed at reducing the high school drop-out rate and preparing "at-risk" youth in Montgomery County for productive careers.

Their findings and recommendations will be presented during "Programs to Improve the Preparation of At-Risk Youth in Montgomery County for Productive Careers" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 in O'Leary Auditorium in Miriam Hall at UD.

An at-risk youth, according to the study, is "any youth who is at risk of not making a positive transition from high school to becoming a self-sufficient, productive adult." Since 1980, the number of drop-outs has averaged nearly 1,700 students per year. In addition, the number of youths 19 years old and younger has dropped more than 15,000 between 1980 and 1984, creating "the crisis of a decreasing work force," according to the report.

Among their recommendations, the students suggest that "case managers" be assigned to at-risk youth beginning in sixth grade, a non-profit agency called the Montgomery County Youth Coalition be formed to coordinate at-risk youth programs, a mainframe computer system be set up to maintain current student records and a property tax be used to raise funds for increased youth services.

The study is the result of a semester-long project undertaken in an Engineering Honors Seminar under the direction of Robert Mott, professor and chairman of Mechanical Engineering Technology. A "systems design team" of 28 students from 17 academic disciplines worked closely with representatives from the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Dayton Area Council on Youth to develop the recommended programs. For information, call Robert Mott at 229-4216.