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UD AND DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEVELOP MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF DAYTON'S AT-RISK YOUTH

UD's Center for Business and Economic Research, in conjunction with Dayton Public Schools, is designing two computerized information systems to monitor the progress of the school system's "New Futures Initiative"--a highly publicized educational program for Dayton's at-risk youth.

Under the direction of Tom Ferratt, a Centerville resident and UD professor of decision sciences, a project team is developing a "Success Monitoring Information System" and a "Community Associate Networking System." The first is designed to monitor the overall progress of the program by providing monthly measures of student success, including attendance, drop-out and graduation rates. The second is designed to provide information to educators and mentors working with the youth. It will contain data entries and queries on each student, including progress on individual student success plans.

The New Futures Initiative is funded, in part, by a five-year \$10 million grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation of Greenwich, Conn. UD is working under a 14-month \$185,000 contract to design the tracking system. UD President Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., served as a member of the New Futures Steering Committee and is currently a member of the New Futures Board of Directors.

For media interviews, contact John Weiler at 229-2198 or Tom Ferratt at 229-2728.

UD EDUCATION PROFESSOR COLLECTS ORAL HISTORIES FROM DAYTON TEACHERS ABOUT COURT-ORDERED DESEGREGATION

Anti-busing advocates have argued that the controversy surrounding desegregation weakened teachers. During the heated legal battle of the 1970s, how did Dayton Public School teachers view the desegregation of the city's schools? Were reports about the teachers' "demoralized" state accurate?

Joseph Watras, a Dayton resident and an associate professor of teacher education at UD, has spent several months collecting oral histories from classroom teachers to determine the pressures they felt between 1972 when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) filed suit to integrate the schools and 1976 when the court-ordered school buses rolled. The transcripts of his interviews will be available in UD's Roesch Library. Eventually, he hopes to use the material as the basis for a book.

As a 1988 Urban Fellow, Watras has been given a reduced teaching load at UD in order to conduct the interviews. In 1987, he teamed up with colleague John Geiger to analyze newspaper accounts of desegregation to determine whether newspapers were a force in advancing school desegregation.

For media interviews, contact Joe Watras at 229-3328.



The University of Dayton