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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD RANKS THIRD IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS AMONG NATION'S CATHOLIC AND OHIO'S PRIVATE COLLEGES

DAYTON, Ohio, January 5, 1989--The University of Dayton ranks third among the nation's Catholic universities—just behind the University of Notre Dame and Georgetown University—in the number of National Merit Scholarship recipients who have enrolled in its freshman class over the past five years.

Among Ohio's private universities, only Oberlin College and Case Western Reserve University have attracted more National Merit Scholars.

These statistics are part of a University of Dayton enrollment report prepared from data contained in annual reports of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In 1988-89, 12 recipients of the prestigious award selected UD as their first choice. Since 1984, 54 National Merit Scholars have enrolled.

"The number of National Merit Scholarship recipients enrolling at a particular university says something of the perceived quality of the institution by the very best students in the higher education marketplace," said Richard T. Ferguson, assistant vice president for enrollment management. "It is only one measure of their perception, but over a period of years it assumes some credibility as a barometer of a university's appeal to top students."

Established in 1955 with a $20 million grant from The Ford Foundation, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a non-profit organization supported by grants from corporations and public and private colleges. In 1988, 6,210 Merit Scholarships worth approximately $23.7 million were awarded to academically talented high school seniors based upon test scores from a Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, academic performance and recommendations. The value of the scholarships ranges from $500 to $2,500.