

10-22-1999

University of Dayton Named One of Nation's Leading Colleges that Encourages Character Development

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"University of Dayton Named One of Nation's Leading Colleges that Encourages Character Development" (1999). *News Releases*. 8360.

https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/8360

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

FJA(1) c.1

UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

1850-2000

Oct. 22, 1999
Contact: Teri Rizvi
rizvi@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

(Editor's Note: These service projects offer photo opportunities. On Friday, Oct. 22, UD students will tutor children at the Boys and Girls Club, 1828 W. Stewart St., from 3 to 4 p.m.; others will play with children at the Miami Valley Family Care Center, 4100 W. Third St., from 3 to 5 p.m. From 1 until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23, students in Monalisa Mullins' introductory philosophy course will help decorate for "Fall Fest" and socialize with nursing home residents at Crystal Care Nursing Home, 250 S. Park Dr.)

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON NAMED ONE OF NATION'S LEADING COLLEGES THAT ENCOURAGES CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

DAYTON, Ohio — As the John Templeton Foundation today announces nationally that the University of Dayton is among 100 colleges recognized for leadership in the field of student character development, two groups of UD students are quietly doing what they do every Friday afternoon.

Members of the Kids Club are tutoring children at the Boys and Girls Club, 1828 W. Stewart St.; Circle K members will make the weekly trip to the Miami Valley Family Care Center, 4100 W. Third St., to play with inner-city children.

"Faculty and staff at the University of Dayton work with students to connect their learning in the classroom with leadership and service in the community. Our students and graduates make a difference in the world by giving gifts to others that enrich their lives. This is part of UD's historic Catholic and Marianist tradition — to combine competence with character," said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president. "We're honored to be included in a national guide that says character matters."

The University of Dayton is one of 100 colleges and universities nationwide named to the Templeton Honor Roll for "its comprehensive commitment and programs that inspire students to lead ethical and civic-minded lives." UD is also profiled in the volunteer service program section of the guidebook, *The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development*.

This is the University of Dayton's second national honor this fall. UD ranks first in the nation among the 315 NCAA Division I schools in student-athlete graduation rates, according

-over-

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
300 College Park Dayton, Ohio 45469-1679
(937) 229-3241 (937) 229-3063 Fax
www.udayton.edu

to graduation rates compiled by the U.S. Department of Education.

More than 1,000 undergraduates through 29 service clubs perform community service annually, from helping to build and renovate houses for low-income residents to serving as big brothers and big sisters for children who need mentors. Last year, University of Dayton students logged more than 13,600 hours of community service through campus ministry activities and contributed another 9,000 hours through service-learning projects that use real-world service to reinforce classroom theory. About 60 professors incorporate some form of community service requirement in their courses. One example: pre-physical therapy majors provide hand and arm massages to local nursing home residents in a program called "Healing Hands."

Last month, the University of Dayton's Center for Social Concern launched a campaign to recruit students, faculty and staff to pledge 150 hours of service between now and Nov. 1, 2000, as part of UD's sesquicentennial celebration. That's 22,500 hours, or two-and-a-half years of nonstop, 'round-the-clock aid to agencies serving the Dayton region. In February, UD will award its inaugural Leadership with Virtue award to a national or international figure.

"Learning through service is at the core of UD's mission," the guide notes, highlighting a number of service-learning initiatives:

- Campus Ministry. It is "one of the largest Campus Ministry programs in the U.S.," with a 30-year tradition of providing voluntary service opportunities for students.
- Plunge experiences. "This past spring some 125 UD students weighed the rewards of a spring break vacation against serving and building community — and they chose service."
- Christmas on Campus. UD annually transforms campus into a winter wonderland for underprivileged children and others from the Dayton community.
- Community Leadership and Service Preparation (CLASP). A certificate program in community service prepares students for volunteer stints with such organizations as the Peace Corps.
- Institute for Neighborhood and Community Leadership. This UD center works closely with neighborhood development organizations on economic and human development issues.

"The University of Dayton's strong commitment to character development and the strength of its program make it a model for colleges and universities nationwide," said Arthur J. Schwartz, director of character development programs at the John Templeton Foundation.

"With *The Templeton Guide*, we hope to help prospective college students and their parents who want to know what colleges are doing to promote the core values of honesty, self-control,

-more-

respect and service to those less fortunate. *The Templeton Guide* identifies colleges that encourage students to understand the importance of personal and civic responsibility, which will help them succeed in college and beyond. The University of Dayton's work in this area is most impressive."

Intended for high school students, parents, guidance counselors, college administrators, trustees, faculty and alumni, *The Templeton Guide* recognizes programs that represent the best practices in the field of character development during the college years. The programs were chosen through a highly selective process that considered clarity of vision and statement of purpose; institutional resources; involvement of institutional leaders; impact on students, faculty, campus and community; integration into the core curriculum or academic study; longevity; external awards and recognition; and assessment.

Established in 1987, the John Templeton Foundation works closely with educators, scientists, theologians, medical professionals and other scholars throughout the world to support more than 100 programs serving three chief purposes: to encourage character development in schools and colleges; to encourage an appreciation for the benefits of freedom; and to stimulate serious and scientific research relationship between spirituality and health. The foundation's College and Character initiative supports national programs that offer meaningful opportunities for college students to learn about, reflect upon and practice the virtues of personal and civic responsibility.

The foundation's Web site, www.collegeandcharacter.org, provides information on the initiative and links to the home pages of colleges selected for *The Templeton Guide*.

More about the University of Dayton's community service initiatives can be found at www.udayton.edu/~service and www.udayton.edu/~csc/.

For media interviews, contact **Nick Cardilino**, director of service clubs, at (937) 229-2524 and **Monalisa Mullins**, director of the University of Dayton's Service-Learning Resource Center, at (937) 229-2752.