University of Dayton Announces Record $150 Million Campaign to Support Scholarships, Facilities, Faculty

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UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON ANNOUNCES RECORD $150 MILLION CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS, FACILITIES, FACULTY

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton today launched the public phase of The Call to Lead, a $150 million fund-raising and image-building effort to push UD to “new levels of innovation” and secure its role as a national leader in Catholic higher education.

The campaign is historic. The largest campaign in the region’s history has already attracted $87.7 million in leadership gift commitments — including $11.4 million in support from John McHale, an Austin, Texas, entrepreneur and 1978 UD engineering graduate. His single $10 million pledge is the largest gift in UD’s nearly 150-year history.

The campaign is national. UD expects to raise more than $75 million from supporters outside Dayton before the campaign’s end in 2002.

The campaign is symbolic. It’s another strong sign of momentum in a city that’s begun to see a steady flow of private and public dollars committed toward the renaissance of its downtown.

To put this campaign in perspective, UD has already more than doubled the tally of its 1980s capital campaign, which attracted a record-breaking $43 million, mostly from the local community.

“This is a campaign to push the University of Dayton to new levels of innovation,” said Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., president. “It’s a large-scale effort to tell the story about the University of Dayton’s aspirations to alumni and supporters around the country, with the faith that those who also passionately believe in UD’s mission will hear the call and answer it.”

McHale’s $10 million gift will be used to support, among other areas, the “New Engineer” curriculum in the School of Engineering, minority scholarships and various technology initiatives. Another $1.4 million, committed early in the “quiet phase” of the six-year campaign, went toward the construction of the $4.3 million NBA-caliber Donoher Basketball Center, which opened in June 1998.

Thomas J. Danis, chair and chief executive officer of the Danis Companies and a 1971
alumnus, and William Bombeck, national disaster relief chairman for the American Red Cross and a 1950 alumnus, are co-chairing the drive. Legendary former Pittsburgh Steelers’ coach Chuck Noll, a 1953 alumnus, is serving as honorary co-chair. Dayton philanthropist John W. Berry Sr., who died in 1998, also served briefly as honorary co-chair.

Although Berry didn’t graduate from the University of Dayton and wasn’t Catholic, he believed in UD’s vision — and supported it. Before his death, he committed $7.5 million for scholarships, with an emphasis on supporting UD’s rigorous honors and scholars program.

To date, UD has raised $17.3 million — or nearly 60 percent — of its $30 million goal for scholarships to increase diversity, provide access for students who otherwise wouldn’t be able to attend the private university, attract high-caliber students and improve athletic competitiveness.

Besides scholarships, UD is seeking philanthropic dollars in five other areas:

- **Facilities and technology, $32 million.** UD is raising money to renovate Miriam and Chaminade halls, create a state-of-the-art science complex, develop a digital preservation laboratory in the campus library and build a European-style soccer stadium.

  Among leadership commitments: $1 million from the L. William Crotty Foundation and $1 million from Mead Corp. toward the renovation of Miriam Hall.

- **Connected learning, $30 million.** What faculty and administrators call “the heart of the UD experience,” connected learning combines liberal arts and professional coursework with real-world opportunities to lead and serve. UD is seeking support for its “New Engineer” curriculum, which prepares engineers to be more than just technically proficient. The curriculum emphasizes communication, critical thinking and teamwork skills. UD is also constructing the Ryan C. Harris Learning-Teaching Center on the ground floor of the campus library as a gathering spot for people who are passionate about discovering and sharing new ways to learn and teach. Also on the drawing board are plans to expand the Children’s Center and establish a program in law, religion and social justice in the School of Law.

  Among leadership commitments: $5 million from the Kettering family to build a Living and Learning Arts complex in the south student neighborhood; $1 million from Cordell Hull, a 1956 civil engineering graduate and San Francisco businessman, to create a study-abroad fellowship program; $500,000 from the W.M. Keck Foundation to create an environmental laboratory to train students in environmental geology and environmental biology; and $500,000 from Phoenix, Ariz., lawyer Chip Harris toward the construction of the Ryan C. Harris Learning-Teaching Center, named for his son, a UD student who died in 1997.

- **Faculty and faculty development, $28 million.** UD is seeking funds to endow chairs in business administration, arts and languages, Catholic theology, biology, aerospace, and law and technology; endow professorships in the sciences, Judaic studies and business administration; and add visiting professorships.

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Among leadership commitments: A portion of NCR’s $1.2 million commitment to help endow professorships in the School of Business Administration and School of Law and $250,000 from Fifth Third Bank to endow an entrepreneurship-in-residence position.

- **Annual funds for excellence, $20 million.** UD is seeking money that can be used for quickly emerging needs, such as technology upgrades and new classroom equipment.

Among leadership commitments: $2 million from Tom and Mollie Danis.

- **Partnerships, $10 million.** UD hopes to expand its Minority Engineering Program and Women in Engineering Program and establish two centers focused on serving Dayton needs: a Center for Urban Education and a Center for Leadership in Community.

Among leadership commitments: $1 million from the L. William Crotty Foundation to create the L. William Crotty Center for Enterprise Leadership in the School of Business Administration.

Fitz said The Call to Lead Campaign is “more about raising sights than raising money.” It grew out of the University’s Vision 2005 strategic plan, which called for UD not to depend solely on philanthropy to fund its initiatives. “We’ve asked ourselves to reallocate internal resources, increase productivity and contain tuition increases in an effort to demonstrate to supporters that the realization of the University of Dayton’s vision to be a national leader in Catholic higher education is worth the sacrifice,” he said.

Is the $150 million goal achievable? Campaign co-chair Danis thinks so.

“This campaign clearly has a national scope and a broader constituency base,” said Danis, noting that UD’s vision “connects” with people.

“Private higher education can make a difference. The University of Dayton does make a difference,” he said. “That may sound a little old-fashioned or corny, but people believe it, they feel it, and it’s part of my motivation.”

UD will launch The Call to Lead Campaign at a gala reception and dinner tonight for leadership donors in the Frericks Athletics and Convocation Center, then host regional campaign events around the country, beginning in January.

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