

January 2008

January 9, 2008

Dear Friends,

At Oakland University, 2008 promises to be a productive year with many great things in store. We're looking forward to continued growth, expansion, and a strong future.

But we're not doing it alone. At OU we are proud of the partnerships and alliances that we have with members of our community. Together with business and industry, local health care organizations, corporations, and educational institutions, we are creating opportunities for achievement and growth. And our donors and alumni are helping us along the way through their generous contributions and thoughtful participation.

In an era of shrinking state funding for education, partnering with other organizations is an effective resource for developing new programs and initiatives. Our partnerships range from creating a new medical school, to exploring technology research to educating future pharmacists and nurses, to supporting new businesses.

In partnership with Beaumont Hospitals we are making history by opening a medical school in 2010. The medical school will provide jobs and applied research capacity, and will address the impending physician shortage. Through our partnership with Henry Ford Hospitals in Detroit, members of our Department of Physics are researching new ways to reverse the effects of stroke. In conjunction with Wayne State University's Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, OU students can earn a doctorate in pharmacy in seven years, instead of eight, saving time and money.

We're reaching out to help new businesses. Oakland University's SmartZone Business INCubator helps nurture entrepreneurs by offering business development assistance and resources, including office space, start-up services, and links to legal and patent counsel. Our Applied Technology in Business (ATiB) program is a dynamic relationship between OU, students and corporate sponsors that provides students with hands-on, on-site experience in the application of business technology, while they earn a minor degree.

Our partnerships touch people. Through the OUCARES program we are helping to improve the lives of families and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The OUCARES program provides counseling, hosts support groups, and offers therapeutic and recreational programs for families. And our reach proves global as we continue The Oakland University-Guizhou exchange program, sending more than a dozen volunteers to China each year to build cultural bridges and further teacher education on both sides of the world.

The list goes on...

We value these opportunities to collaborate with others, and share the talent and expertise

of our students, faculty and administrators, in order to benefit our community. We look forward to implementing many more such partnerships in the future. As we grow as an institution, we are committed to expanding our community engagement initiatives, providing distinction to Oakland University, and innovation to our world.

Gary D. Russi
President, Oakland University