



Wednesday, November 12, 2003

All-University Fund Drive set for Nov. 20-Dec. 31

Faculty and staff have the opportunity to contribute to the campus and community programs they most cherish as Oakland University joins forces once again with the United Way and the Black United Fund for the All-University Fund Drive (AUF), which takes place Nov. 20 through Dec. 31.

For the third year in a row, OU President Gary Russi will match gifts made to the university up to \$5,000 with 50 cents on the dollar. This is a wonderful way for faculty and staff to enhance the value of their gift to the program(s) they choose to designate. To be eligible for the match, all gifts must be made by Dec. 31. President's Club pledges and naming opportunities to the university are ineligible for the presidential match.

"I encourage all employees to consider an annual gift to the university. This is a wonderful opportunity to support a program, department or scholarship that you care about and want to impact," Russi said. "Any gift, large or small, is welcome and does make a difference in our ability to deliver a distinctive educational experience for our students."

The combined goal for this year's campaign is \$170,000. Last year, \$167,965 was raised —\$148,740 for OU, \$3,138 for the Black United Fund and \$16,087 for United Way.

Solicitation materials will be distributed through campus mail the week of Nov. 17. To make a contribution to the AUF, employees should use the pledge form enclosed in their packet to select the organization(s) and designation(s) they want to support. Gifts in the form of check, VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Payroll deduction also is encouraged. For those interested in the payroll deduction feature, the first deduction will take place in January and run through Dec. 31, 2004. Faculty and staff can choose payroll deduction for a minimum of one month or spread their gift over 12 months. The payroll deduction minimum is \$5 per month.

Mark Simon, associate professor of management; Mel Gilroy, police lieutenant; and Jennifer Gilroy, senior associate registrar, are the co-chairs for this year's campaign. Patrick Nicosia, who retired last year as director of budget and financial planning, is leading the retiree solicitation effort. In addition, more than 50 faculty and staff from across campus have agreed to inform and encourage their colleagues to participate throughout the AUF.

"We are so fortunate to have three co-chairs and so many team leaders for this year's fund drive," said Sue Goepp, vice president of University Relations. "Their willingness to share time and talent with Oakland and the larger community demonstrates the high caliber of faculty and staff OU is able to attract and retain."

Mid-way through the campaign, on Dec. 11, an awareness reception will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge. Representatives from the United Way, Black United Fund and Oakland University will be on hand to greet current and prospective donors, provide additional information about their organizations and accept pledge forms. Refreshments will be served.

In January, President Russi will host an appreciation reception for those faculty and staff who made gifts to OU, the Black United Fund or United Way during the campaign.

SUMMARY

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