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## Engineering students attracted to Macomb location

By *Karen Hildebrandt*, contributing writer

As one of the first OU schools to enroll students at **Macomb's University Center** (MUC), the **School of Engineering and Computer Science** has experienced continued growth in student interest and enrollment in the program located in Clinton Township. When the center first opened its state-of-the-art, 53,400-square-foot Engineering and Technology Center in fall 2000, the total number of students enrolled in OU's Macomb engineering program was 110. In fall 2004, 225 students were enrolled in the center, an increase of 105 percent.

"Macomb County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States, but it does not have a four-year educational institution located there," said SECS Dean Pieter Frick. "It is a wonderful partnership opportunity for OU and Macomb Community College (MCC). We have taken advantage of it by offering a superb engineering education at a very convenient, top-notch facility. The new center is a direct result of (OU) President Russi's strategy to provide convenient, high-quality education to this ever-growing population."

Working in partnership with MCC, MUC allows Macomb area students to complete an OU bachelor's degree in electrical, computer or mechanical engineering or computer science at the center. With its 11 traditional classrooms, four distance-learning centers and nine engineering labs, the center is just the right size for David Durrenberg, a junior electrical engineering major.

"I like the smaller campus and friendly atmosphere. The labs offer the same equipment; we are taught by OU professors; and I am learning just as much as my peers on campus," said Durrenberg, who has taken classes at both campuses as well as transferred MCC credits. "The OU Web site outlines the transfer equivalencies very thoroughly. You won't get caught off guard. Everything is very convenient. I would recommend Macomb's University Center to anyone."

Some students take advantage of MCC's new Associate of Baccalaureate Studies (ABS) degree program that allows MCC students interested in engineering to complete a two-year associates degree in science (pre-engineering) and transfer into OU's engineering program to complete the last two years of their bachelor's degree. The ABS program makes the transfer process virtually seamless and has expanded beyond engineering to include more than 40 OU bachelor's degree majors.

"We are not surprised by the steady growth in the program," said SECS Associate Dean Bhushan Bhatt. "Students from Macomb are attracted to the high-quality program because it gives them an opportunity to live, work and pursue their educational goals — all in their own community."

### SUMMARY

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