



Thursday, January 31, 2002

## Alumnus gift to establish learning center

OU alumnus and former Board of Trustees member **Dennis Pawley** has donated \$1 million to the university to establish an institute to meld together technology, business and human resources for manufacturing, and to establish a "lean manufacturing" learning center.

"Oakland University is at the epicenter of the automotive industry," Pawley said. "It is my hope that, with this gift, Oakland University becomes the primary recruiting source for business, engineering and human resource development professionals."

Pawley, a former executive vice president of manufacturing with the Chrysler Corporation, expressed the desire that his gift be used to establish the Pawley Institute, which will be dedicated to expanding research, education and partnerships with business and community leaders.

The purpose of the institute will be to share concepts and practices of "lean manufacturing" with university departments to create leaders and learners within the university and in the corporate world. Lean learning is a concept that incorporates tools, techniques and management philosophies to streamline processes and eliminate waste.

"Dennis Pawley has been a friend to Oakland University for many, many years," said Oakland University President Gary Russi. "His leadership as a board member and his continued support have been instrumental to much of the success we've achieved so far. He has given his ideas, his energies and his time unselfishly to make Oakland a world-class university. His kind gift greatly enhances all that he has contributed to Oakland over the years."

Pawley said the concept of lean manufacturing will benefit the automotive industry and Oakland students who are schooled in the philosophy of lean manufacturing.

"Too many businesses have the tools of lean manufacturing but they lack the training and mindset necessary to use those tools effectively," he said. "Without adopting the lean manufacturing philosophy as a total system, the tools become outdated and useless very quickly. Training Oakland students in the principles of lean manufacturing will make them more marketable and will also benefit the automotive industry tremendously."

"This gift will enable us to engage students and faculty in cutting-edge education, research and outreach activities," said Virinder Moudgil, OU's interim vice president for Academic Affairs and provost. "It will broaden their base of knowledge, which is consistent with Oakland's mission of learning and providing top-quality education."

Pawley graduated from OU's **School of Education and Human Services** in 1982. He served as a director to the **OU Foundation** from 1993-96, and again from 1999 to the present. He was a member of the **Board of Trustees** from 1996-98. He is chair and CEO of Pawley Enterprises in Farmington, Michigan. In 1997, he and his wife, Carlotta, donated \$2 million to Oakland University to support the schools of **Education and Human Services**, and **Engineering and Computer Science**.

### SUMMARY

OU alumnus and former Board of Trustees member Dennis Pawley donated \$1 million to establish an institute to meld technology, business and human resources for manufacturing.

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