



Thursday, October 14, 2004

## All-University Fund Drive set for Oct. 18-Dec. 22

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 Black United Fund for the All-University Fund Drive (AUFDD), which takes place Oct. 18 through Dec. 22.

This year's campaign starts earlier than previous years due to suggestions from faculty and staff that a longer campaign would give employees more time to make their contributions.

For the fourth year in a row, OU President Gary Russi will match gifts made to the university 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," said Julie Vulaj, director of annual giving. "In the last two years alone, Dr. Russi has contributed more than \$100,000 to more than 100 programs across campus."

To be eligible for the match, all gifts must reach the Gift Accounting Department at John Dodge House by Wednesday, Dec. 22. President's Club pledges and naming opportunities to the university are ineligible for the presidential match. The maximum match is \$2,500.

"I encourage all employees to consider an annual gift to the university. This is an excellent 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 \$182,000, a 5-percent increase over last year's contributions of \$173,041. Vulaj said she knows the goal can be reached. In fact, over the last two years, she indicates contributions have increased almost 20 percent.

"Despite tough economic times and state budget cuts, employees are bannng together to support their university," Vulaj said. "Faculty and staff are indeed living the AUFDD motto of 'Caring Through Sharing.'"

Solicitation materials will be distributed through campus mail the week of Oct. 18. To make a contribution to the AUFDD, employees should use the pledge form enclosed in their packet. 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, 2005. 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.

Ron Cramer and Theresa and George Gamboa are the co-chairs for this year's campaign. Patrick Nicosia, who retired two years ago as director of budget and financial planning, is leading the retiree solicitation effort for a second year in a row. In addition, more than 50 faculty and staff from across campus have agreed to inform and encourage their colleagues to participate throughout the AUFDD.

"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."

On Thursday, Jan. 27, President Russi will host an appreciation reception for faculty and staff who made gifts to OU, the Black United Fund or United Way during the campaign. Invitations to this celebration will be mailed in early January.

### SUMMARY

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 Black United Fund for the All-University Fund Drive (AUFDF), which takes place Oct. 18 through Dec. 22.

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