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SpiritCash is convenient alternative to carrying cash

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

At Oakland University, there's one card that's recognized everywhere you go, and it's not American Express.

It's **OU's SpiritCard**, the official picture identification card of the university. With a quick swipe, you can check out library materials, access the Recreation Center and enter Vandenberg and Hamlin residence halls after hours.

And, when you open a SpiritCash account, your SpiritCard doubles as a debit card when you make a cash deposit. More than 2,700 students, faculty and staff are enjoying the benefits of SpiritCash.

"It's fast, convenient and secure," said Don Ritenburgh, manager of ID card operations. "It's a great alternative to carrying cash on campus. Plus, account holders receive a monthly electronic statement to track purchases, and faculty and staff can add money to their card through payroll deduction."

SpiritCash is accepted at all on-campus food outlets, two Pepsi machines on the main level of the Oakland Center, the OU Bookstore, Copy Stop, Bumpers Games Room, Center for Student Activities Service Window, and Katke-Cousins and R&S Sharf golf courses.

SpiritCards were introduced in 1998, and since then, nearly 42,000 cards have been distributed. There is no charge for the first SpiritCard, however, if it is lost, there is a \$10 replacement fee.

To get a SpiritCard or open a SpiritCash account, visit the ID Card Office, 112 Oakland Center, near the Fireside Lounge.

It's easy to add SpiritCash funds by:

- visiting the ID Card Office during regular business hours;
- using the value transfer station next to the ATM in the Oakland Center;
- mailing cash or a check, payable to Oakland University, in a SpiritCash deposit envelope (available at the ID Card Office).

To get a SpiritCard:

- Students must show picture ID (driver's license, passport, state ID).
- Faculty and staff must show picture ID (driver's license, passport, state ID) and Verification of Employment Form, available from University Human Resources.
- Community members must show picture ID (driver's license, passport, state ID) and Recreation Center membership validation slip.

SpiritCards and SpiritCash fun facts:

- SpiritCards average one million swipes per year.
- SpiritCard swipes opened 18,000 doors throughout campus last year.
- SpiritCash deposits average \$611,000 a year.
- The average SpiritCash transaction is \$14.91.
- Last year, SpiritCash purchases totaled \$581,539.

SUMMARY

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