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OU rolls out comprehensive education stimulus plan

By **Dave Groves**, news editor

In light of financial hardships many students and families are facing, Oakland University administrators and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that obtaining a high quality education is not among the sacrifices that must be made.

Having listened to the needs and concerns of students looking to embark on or continue their college education, university officials have developed a comprehensive plan to provide both need-based and merit-based financial aid to all students in need.

In fact, for the 2009-10 school year, Oakland has increased scholarship awards for incoming freshmen by as much as \$1,000, created two new scholarships and maintained its commitment to provide five merit-based scholarships for new students.

What's more, administrators have eliminated the prospect of student loans for need-based freshmen entering OU this fall. Through the 100% Tuition Grant program, Michigan residents who apply for financial aid and are found to have need according to U.S. government standards will receive a grant covering tuition in excess of other awards and an expected family contribution.

"We know that many families in Michigan and beyond are struggling these days, and that paying for a college education may seem out of reach," said Mary Beth Snyder, OU's vice president for student affairs.

"At the same time, we know that sacrificing an opportunity to obtain a college degree is a decision that will have unfortunate consequences long after these tough times pass. At Oakland, we're keeping education affordable and accessible so that no aspiring student has to make that decision."

Students and families also will find reassurance in the fact that Oakland is the only public university in the state that charges no fees of any kind – not even an application fee. In addition, the university has created a special assistance fund to help students whose declining financial situations have put their college education in jeopardy.

Coupled with the fact that OU is a nationally and internationally recognized, doctoral/research university conveniently located in the community, affordability makes enrollment in any of nearly 230 degree programs an attractive and viable option.

To learn more about Oakland's efforts to assist students and families in these tough economic times visit www.oakland.edu/quality. To learn more about the programs and services Oakland offers, visit the **Academics** Web page.

SUMMARY

University administrators and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that obtaining a high quality education is not among the sacrifices that must be made.

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