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## OU plate sales benefit student scholarships

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Since its introduction in October 2001, thousands of Michigan motorists have shown their Oakland University pride and helped support student scholarships by purchasing OU license plates. As of April 9, 1,665 OU plates have been sold, generating more than \$63,000 for the Oakland University Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Purchasing an OU plate is an easy way for alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university to extend Oakland's community relations as well as support higher education.

"The outreach of the license plate program has been tremendous for the university," said Alumni Relations Director Adrienne Bass. "The specialty plate program is an opportunity not just to show your pride in OU but also help raise funds that go directly toward student scholarships. Buying a license plate is something that everyone needs to do anyway, so it's a simple way to help our current and future students."

Michigan currently has 23 specialty plates that benefit its state universities and other causes, such as the Children's Trust Fund. In March, Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed a bill that would have increased the number of plates offered because the variety of plate styles would make it more difficult for police to quickly identify vehicles. Granholm has said she would support maintaining the current number of specialty plates. However, the program is set to expire on Oct. 1, 2005, unless a bill is introduced to preserve the program.

"We're thrilled the Secretary of State has seen the value in higher education and allowed the university to gain exposure and raise funds through license plate sales," Bass said. "We hope the state will continue to offer the program. Through plate sales, we've been able to offer students more opportunities than ever before."

Specialty plates can be used only on non-commercial passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans and motor homes. Motorcycles, trailers and vehicles used commercially are not eligible for these plates.

To purchase an OU license plate, fill out an **OU license plate order form** and return it to the Michigan Department of State. Plates also can be purchased at any **Secretary of State** branch office. The original fee to replace a valid license plate with an OU plate is \$35. The university will receive \$25.

Collector plates also can be purchased for a one-time fee of \$35, with \$25 going to the university. Collector plates are for display purposes only and are not meant for vehicle registration. Each collector plate includes the phrase: "Be True to Your School" along with the logo and name of the university.

Plates are mailed to the purchaser within 14 business days from the date the plate is ordered.

For more information on the specialty license plate program, visit the **Michigan Department of State** Web site. For more information on OUAA student scholarships, visit the **OU Alumni** Web site or contact them at (248) 370-2158 or e-mail [ouaa@oakland.edu](mailto:ouaa@oakland.edu).

### SUMMARY

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