



Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Faculty, staff invited to fund drive awareness reception

Faculty and staff are invited to join their colleagues at the All-University Fund Drive Awareness Reception to mark the progress made toward the 2003 All-University Fund Drive (AUSD) goal or to drop off their AUSD pledge form.

During the awareness reception, which takes place Thursday, Dec. 11, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Center Fireside Lounge, representatives from the United Way, Black United Fund and Oakland University will be on hand to greet current and prospective donors, provide additional information about their organizations and accept pledge forms. Refreshments also will be served.

The combined goal for this year's campaign is \$170,000. Last year, \$167,965 was raised —\$148,740 for OU, \$3,138 for the Black United Fund and \$16,087 for United Way.

"2002 was an amazing year for the AUSD", says Julie Vulaj, director of Annual Giving. "Despite the economic decline and other personal circumstances, faculty and staff were very generous, increasing donations by 39 percent over 2001. I hope my colleagues will reach deep into their pockets again this year and be equally as bighearted. As employees, we are already feeling the effects of the state budget cuts. I don't want to see the OU students have to feel this too. The university needs our private contributions now more than ever."

Solicitation materials were distributed through campus mail in late November. To make a contribution to the AUSD, employees should use the pledge form enclosed in their packet to select the organization(s) and designation(s) they want to support. 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, 2004. 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.

For the third year in a row, OU President Gary Russi will match gifts made to the university up to \$5,000 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. To be eligible for the match, all gifts must be made by Dec. 31. President's Club pledges and naming opportunities to the university are ineligible for the presidential match.

On Jan. 26, Russi will host an appreciation reception for those faculty and staff who made gifts to OU, the Black United Fund or United Way during the campaign. Invitations will be mailed to all those who donate to the campaign immediately following the holiday break.

SUMMARY

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