



Tuesday, February 26, 2002

New AVP of human resources attended OU

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU Staff Writer

Ron Watson marked a homecoming when he took the position of assistant vice president for **University Human Resources (UHR)** on Jan. 2. It was a homecoming because he completed his freshman and sophomore years at Oakland University before he transferred to Michigan State University to finish his bachelor's degree.

Watson has worked in the human resources field since 1979 and most recently held the position of vice president of human resources at Compuware in Farmington Hills, where he also served as director of compensation, benefits and employee relations. He has experience in training and organization development, benefits, performance management and has held many progressive leadership roles at Verizon Wireless, Comerica, Taco Bell Corporation and Williams International.

Watson, who lives in White Lake, said he was attracted to a university setting and to the opportunity to contribute to the momentum of change at UHR.

Watson oversees universitywide benefits as well as hiring for nonfaculty employees and matters concerning their compensation, employment, training and development. UHR has responsibilities for benefits, compensation, employment, employee records, training and development.

"We're looking into how to use Banner more," Watson said. "We're also focusing on benefits to ensure that we are getting maximum value for our investment in benefits."

Watson also wants to streamline and speed up the employment process by, for example, using Banner to track resumes in the application process.

Watson plans to communicate more with employees through media such as the **Faculty and Staff News** Web site and Inside OU, the employee newsletter.

Now Watson is busy collecting feedback on UHR and how to improve training and development.

Watson was born and raised in Michigan. Ann, his wife, teaches at Walled Lake Western High School. They have a daughter, Elizabeth, 16, and a son, Gregory, 13.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Article Start Date: Monday, January 23, 2006