



Wednesday, November 20, 2002

All-University Fund Drive under way

From Nov. 15 through Dec. 31 faculty and staff have the opportunity to contribute to those campus and community programs they most cherish, as Oakland University joins forces once again with the United Way and the Black United Fund for the All-University Fund Drive (AUFD).

For the third year in a row, OU President Gary Russi will match gifts up to \$5,000 to the university 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. President's Club and on-going pledges to the university are ineligible for the presidential match.

"I encourage all employees to consider an annual gift to the university. This is a wonderful opportunity to support a program, department or scholarship that you care about and want to impact," Russi said. "Any gift, large or small, is welcome and does make a difference in our ability to deliver a distinctive educational experience for our students."

Elaine Didier, dean of Kresge Library, and Patrick Nicosia, director of Budget and Financial Planning, are the co-chairs of this year's campaign. They are eager to get moving and work toward 100 percent participation. For those teams achieving 100 percent participation, a complimentary bagel breakfast will be hand-delivered at the end of the campaign.

In addition to their leadership role, nearly 50 volunteers from across campus have agreed to assist the co-chairs by talking with their colleagues. According to Julie Vulaj, director of Annual Giving, this personal approach encourages giving in a friendlier, familiar way.

"Our goal is not to pressure anyone to give," Vulaj said. "We want faculty and staff to give because they have a vested interest in seeing the university and community flourish."

About 2,200 employees received their fund drive packets this week, Vulaj said. The list includes full-time, part-time and retired staff; full-time, part-time, retired and visiting faculty; and special lecturers.

"This year we probably have the most comprehensive list ever," Vulaj said. "We want to give everyone associated with the university — past or present — the chance to make a difference in the lives of OU students and local citizens."

It is easy to make a contribution to the AUFD. 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 is encouraged. For those interested in the payroll deduction feature, the first deduction will take place in January and run through Dec. 31, 2003. Faculty and staff can choose payroll deduction for a minimum of one month or spread their gift over 12 months.

An awareness reception is planned for early December. Representatives from the United Way, the Black United Fund and Oakland University will be on-hand to greet current and prospective donors, and accept pledge forms. Refreshments will be served. A flyer with details on location and time will reach campus mailboxes within the next two weeks.

Employee gifts to the fund drive are tax deductible. Look for the flyer enclosed in your packet outlining the tax advantages of charitable giving.

SUMMARY

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