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A Catholic Leader in Engineering Research

08.28.2008 | Research, Engineering, Catholic Ohio-based companies Essential Research, Woolpert and L3 Communications-Cincinnati Electronics have dipped into the University of Dayton-led Institute for the Development and Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology's pool of research dollars for help developing their products.

IDCAST Director Larrell Walters said the pool of research dollars has helped create about 190 Ohio jobs in its 18 months of existence. It also has helped fund the development of the world's largest infrared camera, sensors that can identify items as small as a fingerprint from 6 feet away, deep well-water quality sensors and higher-resolution medical imaging.

At the same time, IDCAST's research volume has helped UD to another record-setting fiscal year — \$85.2 million in sponsored research. That's the fifth-straight record-setting year for the University. The figure eclipses last year's mark by more than \$10 million.

IDCAST is a Wright Center of Innovation funded by the Ohio Department of Development. The U.S. Air Force, industry and university partners, including The Ohio State University, Miami University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Toledo, Central State University, the Air Force Institute of Technology and Wright State University work to bring sensors technology to market. IDCAST has emerged as a beacon to other Wright Centers of Innovation.

It has led to UD occupying 23,000 square feet of collaborative research labs off campus that has helped attract other Ohio universities and companies nationwide to Dayton to work on sensor technology.

"It does appear to us that IDCAST is becoming one of our models of success of industry-university collaboration and industry driving research under the Third Frontier," said Anthony Howard, business and university partnerships manager in the Ohio Department of Development's technology division. "Others may be able to learn from the work IDCAST is doing in this regard."

Other UD centers and institutes, such as the LADAR and Optical Communications Institute, Center for Multifunctional Polymer Nanomaterials and Devices, Center for Tissue Regeneration and Engineering at Dayton; and a newly established coal-to-fuel facility in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force also contribute to the University's record-breaking research volume.

According to the National Science Foundation's annual summary for academic research and development for fiscal year 2007 released this month, UD's record-breaking research funding ranks in the following categories:

No. 1

among all Catholic universities for all sponsored engineering research and development and all sponsored non-medical research

among Ohio universities for federally sponsored engineering research

among Ohio universities for all sponsored materials research and development

No. 2

among all universities for all sponsored materials research and development

among Ohio universities for all sponsored engineering research

among Ohio universities for all sponsored non-medical research

No. 13

among all universities nationally for federally sponsored engineering research and development

No. 27

among colleges and universities nationally for all sponsored engineering research and development

The University of Dayton is Ohio's largest private university and a top-tier national university. As one of the top-10 Catholic universities in the nation, UD emphasizes transformative education and prepares students for leadership and service in their communities in the Marianist tradition.

UD provides hands-on research opportunities for its students within UD, UD Research Institute and Air Force research labs.

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