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NEWS RELEASE

FORMER OHIO GOV. BOB TAFT TO JOIN UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON, LAUNCH CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

DAYTON, Ohio – Former Ohio Gov. Bob Taft will launch the Center for Educational Excellence at the University of Dayton to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to attract research funding on educational policy issues.

As distinguished research associate in educational excellence, Taft will be part of the University of Dayton Research Institute but collaborate with the School of Education and Allied Professions. It's a two-year appointment, with the option of renewal. The full-time post begins Aug. 15. Taft and his wife Hope plan to move to the Dayton region this summer.

It's a fit for Taft, whose passion is education. He taught English, math, geography and art to children in Tanzania as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years after graduating from college and earned a strong reputation for school quality initiatives as governor. Under his leadership, Ohio implemented rigorous standards for student learning and teacher training and boosted state aid to primary and secondary schools by nearly 60 percent. He spearheaded a \$10 billion school construction and renovation program. In addition, he created OhioReads that mobilized more than 50,000 volunteer reading tutors across the state, and launched the Ohio Core, which requires a more rigorous high school curriculum emphasizing math and science.

"As governor, Bob Taft provided significant leadership on education issues and took important strides toward ensuring that Ohio had the conditions necessary for both student and teacher success. His initiatives created a solid foundation for much of the very good work that is continuing throughout the state of Ohio under the leadership of Gov. Ted Strickland," said Thomas Lasley, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions.

Taft has been a national leader on education reform, serving as co-chair of Achieve, an organization created by the nation's governors and business leaders to help states raise

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