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University of Dayton lands \$750K to boost minority engineering students

Dayton Business Journal

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The **University of Dayton** has received \$750,000 in grant money to encourage more minority and women engineering students, the university announced Thursday

The **National Science Foundation, Messer Construction** and the **Virginia Kettering Foundation** donated the money, the majority of which came from a \$650,000 National Science Foundation grant to create a living-learning community for engineers. The living-learning

community will aim to provide the community and support needed to increase enrollment of minorities and women in engineering; increase retention through graduation; and pilot a sustainable engineering curriculum that can serve as a model for other universities, university officials said.

"The guiding question for this project is this: 'Can minority and women enrollment and retention in engineering be increased by uniting such students in community and a mission of engineering to create a sustainable world?'" said Kevin Hallinan, chair of the University of Dayton's mechanical and aerospace engineering department and the renewable and clean energy masters program.

Cincinnati-based Messer Construction and the Virginia Kettering Foundation have donated \$20,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to support first-year students in the Minority STEM Summer Bridge Program, a program designed to help minority students get a feel for the college experience before their first class.

Another \$47,000 from the National Science Foundation and the **Ohio Science and Engineering Alliance** will help minority and women engineering students entering the University this fall engage in summer research opportunities before they even reach campus.

UD had a total undergraduate enrollment last year of 10,920, making it the fourth largest university in the region, according to Dayton Business Journal research.

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