

Subject: [OFFICIAL-L] Message from the President
From: "David R. Hopkins" <david.hopkins@wright.edu>
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To: official_list@wright.edu

Hello--

Recently, I received an email from Curt Pederson, from the Department of Psychology and chair-elect of USAC, who shared with me a conversation he had with a member of our armed forces. The man commented how the people at Wright State University are so great to work with. And he compared us favorably to an organization linked to the military known for excellent customer service. To Curt, this confirmed that we are doing the right things at WSU. Thanks, Curt.

To continue doing the right things, I believe we must continue to embrace the spirit of innovation that led to our founding more than 40 years ago. Our vision for the future is to be Ohio's most innovative university. To me, among other things, that means:

1. we have an environment characterized by transparency and equality of opportunity;
2. we have an environment that favors the success of grass root ideas;
3. we capitalize on our diversity and cultivate our cultural intelligence;
4. we recognize that innovation begins with collective intelligence--the interactive sparking of many minds;
5. we understand that innovation requires a critical mass of talent, not a critical mass of things;
6. we focus on three foundational values--the will to master, the spirit of risk-taking, and importance of continuous change; and
7. we are more concerned with achieving greatness than avoiding failure.

So, today I am announcing a new category for the President's Award for Excellence. The Spirit of Innovation will be awarded for the first time in Fall 2009 to a deserving individual, group, or unit on campus. For the external community, the Dave Hobson Spirit of Innovation Award was created to honor an individual who, through personal courage, character, philosophy, and accomplishments, mirrors the innovative spirit that created Wright State and continues to fuel its impact and value to the community. Most recently, that award went to Michael Adams--alumnus, former Foundation Board member, and former chair of the University Board of Trustees. Through this new category, we want to recognize a member of our university community for similar contributions to the campus. We will share more information with you about this award in the coming weeks. Please be thinking of someone you would like to nominate.

To close, I want to recognize and congratulate Lillie Howard, Brenda Dewberry, Chris Hoffman, Shari Lewis, Nate Klingbeil, Anasthasio Bubulya, and Pamela Wallace-Stroble for the 2009 Summer STEM Academy award from Chancellor Fingerhut. Wright State is partnering with Sinclair Community College of Clark State Community College on this initiative.

All my best,

President David R. Hopkins

Public events on my calendar:

- Tuesday, March 24--Ohio College Association (OCA) Executive Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m., Columbus
- Tuesday, March 24--2009 OCA Spring President's Forum dinner and reception, 5:00 p.m., Columbus
- Wednesday, March 25--2009 OCA Spring President's Forum, 8:00 a.m., Columbus
- Thursday, March 26--Greater Downtown Dayton Business Partnership Committee Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Kettering Tower
- Thursday, March 26--Board of Trustees Executive Session, 4:00 p.m., Wright Brothers Room
- Friday, March 27--Board of Trustees Public Session, 8:30 a.m., E156 Student Union

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