The University of Dayton Fitz Center for Leadership in Community will move to its new space alongside the Dayton Foundation and Dayton Development Coalition at 1401 S. Main St. and host a building dedication and blessing during a public ceremony at 2 p.m. Oct. 17.

Hunter Goodman, Executive Director of the Fitz Center, said the move will enhance the center’s mission to bring community partners and university faculty, staff and resources to the same table, and to develop student leaders with work that continues between semesters.

The building includes office space for the Fitz Center, Dayton Foundation and Dayton Development Coalition, and offers multipurpose rooms that can be used for community meetings, events and university classes.

“Everything about the new building has been designed in a spirit of collaboration,” Goodman said. “We now have an opportunity to be the front porch to the University for our community partners. It takes us to the next level and allows us to build on who we are.”

“This is a fantastic opportunity for community organizations to find better ways to collaborate and knock down walls between sectors,” said Jessica Saunders, director of community engagement at Dayton Children's Hospital, a Fitz Center partner for Dayton Public Schools' Kiser Elementary Neighborhood Schools Center.

“It’s also a great opportunity for students to really be exposed to Dayton and all that it has to offer,” said Saunders, a University alumna and former Fitz Center graduate assistant. “Through my experience with the Fitz Center, I met some people that I still work with to this day. With those connections, when it's time to graduate, you consider staying in Dayton. That's a value that the Fitz Center has to Dayton.”

The move makes the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community more visible and accessible at a time when the University is working to forge deeper community collaboration with greater impact as part of its strategic vision.
“Our partnership is growing in a way that’s personal. It’s one-on-one with our residents,” said Donna Davis, acting president of the Madden Hills Neighborhood Association, which has worked with Fitz Center students since 2017 to renovate and upgrade the Madden Hills Park.

In a new program this year, the neighborhood association meets monthly with students in the Fitz Center’s Leadership in Building Communities class to examine neighborhood issues.

“I see the Fitz Center as the leader and role model for the city of Dayton in its efforts in building community/neighborhood relationships. The Fitz Center class is working toward the greater good by teaching and developing tomorrow’s leaders so they’re equipped to obtain neighborhood insight, build and develop better communities for the future,” Davis said.

Eleven full-time Fitz Center staff, six graduate assistants and up to 10 undergraduates will work in the new building. Additionally, more than 200 students involved in Fitz Center programs — including Dayton Corps AmeriCorps, River Stewards, Dayton Civic Scholars and Semester of Service — will be connected to the space.

The multipurpose rooms at the 1401 S. Main St. can be reserved by contacting Lori Lubbers, Fitz Center senior administrative assistant, at llubbers1@udayton.edu.

Written by Meagan Pant

Student Open House

On Friday, September 27th, the students of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community had an open house in our new building, 1401 S. Main Street. Following a blessing of the collaborative space by Father Kip Stander, students enjoyed pizza and were given the opportunity to mingle around the new space. Students were asked to envision the possibilities of collaborative work that will be able to to place in the new space. Students also created tiles that show what the Fitz Center means to them. The tiles will be some of the art work placed throughout the space as a way to connect our students to their new collaborative and creative area.
**Fitz Center History**

In 2002, The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community was established when Brother Raymond Fitz stepped down as President of the University of Dayton. He was on a commission for child protection with Dick Ferguson and worked with *Strategies for Responsible Development*. Brother Ray and Dick Ferguson thought it would be beneficial for students to learn what they were as part of the commission. They started a course that is in its 25th year called, *Leadership in Building Community*. Additionally, they combined the research Brenda Donnelly was conducting in the Social Science Research Center/Center for the Study of Family Development to create the Fitz Center for Leadership in the Community.

**Impact**

Brother Ray has seen creativity blossom in University of Dayton students who have gotten their start in The Fitz Center and are now leaders in the Dayton Community. He has seen an awakening of students working within the different programs of The Fitz Center as they are immersed into the city breaking the University of Dayton's *Bubble*. Brother Ray says this expansion of students’ horizons has challenged the perspectives that feed creativity for change.

**A word from Fitz Center Alum, Logan Cobbs**

The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community has allowed me to give back to the Dayton community. I've experienced what it truly means to be a servant leader through giving. What makes the Fitz Center so special is its commitment to providing an avenue for public service, while continuing to promote leadership, scholarship, and community outreach. The support that I've received from The Fitz Center as a UD student and an alumni has been unmatched. Hands on support, guidance, mentoring, and an opportunity to be a part of a cohort making a difference in the community has been a key part of my development and ongoing passion for public service.

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Logan Cobbs
DAYTON CIVIC SCHOLARS

The Dayton Civic Scholars is a program within The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community that work to bridge the gap between University students and the City of Dayton. The program allows students to fully immerse into the city giving them a look at the people and opportunities that exists outside the University of Dayton Bubble. The program splits students into cohorts based on their year. The Sophomore and Junior Cohorts spend time building relationships and becoming familiar and comfortable in the city. An example of this is The Longest Table Dayton, a day in which people from around the community come to share a meal, thoughts about community and Dayton’s assets and challenges.

By senior year, each cohort focuses their efforts toward a capstone project. The Class of 2020 is working to create a STEAM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) with West Dayton Strong. The Senior Cohort knew they wanted to impact children of Dayton because they are the future of the city. Members of the cohort have been volunteering at West Dayton Strong helping children with homework, playing games together, and sharing a meal. The Cohort decided to expand on that volunteering. For their capstone project, there are three groups; A game group that creates culturally relevant games with the children, a field trip group that exposes the children to various parts of the city so they have places to explore and people to look up to, and lastly, the STEAM Lab group that aims to teach skills the children can use in their careers even if they do not go on to higher education. The Cohort is in the process of securing grants and designing what their STEAM Lab will look like as a space for projects, experiments and activities.

A word from West Dayton Strong

West Dayton Strong (WDS), a summer/after school program based in Desoto Bass public housing, has been engaged with the University of Dayton Civic Scholars (DCS) 2020 cohort, since fall 2018. From the beginning, we have been amazed by the scholars’ passion, dedication, commitment, and depth of knowledge. Being conscious of cultural differences between the cohort and the program, we started with a few scholars who routinely volunteered. This not only helped to build deeper relationships within the neighborhood, but also permitted assessment of what our future collaboration could look like. The Dayton Civic Scholars is an amazing program that WDS has been privileged to partner with.

Written by Keisha Anderson, West Dayton Strong

"A look at the people and opportunity that exists outside the University of Dayton Bubble."

-Michelle Smith, 2020 cohort
UDayton Votes

UDayton Votes is a nonpartisan organization run through the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community that promotes voter registration and civic engagement across different levels on campus. Our ultimate goal is not only to get as many students on campus registered as possible, but to offer students the resources and knowledge to be educated and involved voters. This year, we are fortunate to have grown our team. Up until last year, Vote Everywhere was the sole organization at UD for voter and civic engagement. As a program of the Andrew Goodman Foundation, our three ambassadors spearheaded registration drives, activities, and discussions to increase engagement on campus. Last spring, we were able to acquire a fellow from Campus Engagement Election Project, thus creating UDayton Votes and expanding our team. With a larger team and a broadened national network, we are able to facilitate and participate in more events on campus, as well as have access to resources and mentorship from both Vote Everywhere and CEEP (Campus Election Engagement Project). We are lucky to have an extremely supportive advisory board, administration, and campus champions that help propel our organization forward. With the move to 1401 S. Main Street, we hope to further institutionalize voter registration on campus, and in our community.

Written by Anna Rose Redgate, Udayton Votes Team Leader

TEAM MEMBERS

Anna Rose Redgate  
Sean Newhouse  
Erin Decero

Cierra Stewart  
Emma Speyer
New Employee Highlight

Felicity Nolder

Before joining the Marianist PULSE program and the Rivers Institute team as the RiverMobile Coordinator, Felicity was a student at Wheeling Jesuit University. In her time there, she studied English and Theology. Felicity also worked as a writing tutor while attending the University. Her extra-curricula's included being an active theater guild member and an athlete on the track and cross country teams. In the short time between graduation and moving to Dayton, she worked as an Immersion Trip Leader for the Appalachian Institute, where Felicity helped lead groups of high school students from all across the country in order to educate them on the various injustices that the Appalachian region faces. Now, as the Fitz Center's Marianist PULSE volunteer, Felicity helps coordinate and teach out of the RiverMobile, a mobile classroom provided by the Rivers Institute, as a free service to the local Dayton community.

Carl Soares

Carl graduated from the University of Connecticut with his bachelor’s degree in Economics. He served two AmeriCorps terms with the education nonprofit, City Year, in Providence and Boston. Carl received his master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Marquette University where he had a Graduate Assistantship with Student Organizations at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the following year with Marquette University's Center for Community Service. While at the Center for Community Service, he coordinated the Marquette Volunteer Corps program, a program that consisted of 75 plus volunteers volunteering on a weekly basis at 10 local nonprofits focusing on 5 social justice areas each semester.

Carl's experience with community engagement, AmeriCorps, with Catholic values and working towards a more justice and equitable world drew him to the position as Dayton Corps Coordinator at the University of Dayton.

Lori Lubbers

Lori is currently the Senior Administrative Assistant for External Operations. She comes to the Fitz Center with over ten years’ experience working for Non-Profits and County Agencies in an administrative capacity. She is excited to continue her work in the community with promoting the new collaborative space at 1401 S. Main and helping connect community agencies to create a shared vision for Dayton. When not collaborating with her coworkers Lori enjoys being active with her two children, whether coaching them in basketball, volunteering as a family at Paws 4 Ability or hiking. Lori looks forward to working with her new UD family.
Brother Raymond Fitz, SM. Ph.D

For the past 17 years, Brother Raymond Fitz worked as the Father Ferree Professor of Social Justice. In that role, he worked with all centers in the College of Arts and Sciences with a particular focus on social justice in the Catholic Marianist tradition. Beginning this year, Brother Ray is President Emeritus and Advisor to the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community. Dr. Kelly Johnson assumes the role of Father Ferree Professor of Social Justice.

Brother Ray will continue to work in the College of Arts and Sciences as a professor of social change teaching the course “Leadership in Building Community” to the Dayton Civic Scholars. He will also continue to lecture throughout Dayton on ways to build community. He will work with Executive Director, Dr. Hunter Phillips Goodman, in thinking through the strategic direction of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community while assisting with important initiatives. Brother Ray will chair a group with the Dayton Foundation on Minority and Economic Inclusion as well as a group on the Two Generation Approach to Supporting Families. Additionally, Brother Ray will continue his research on the Catholic community as a catalyst and partner in building regional solidarity working at racial and economic justice.

"The Catholic community as a catalyst and partner in building regional solidarity"

"We said, we ought to have a way of getting our students to learn the same things we've learned [in the community]"

- Brother Ray
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**Bold represents Fitz Center staff**

**Underline represents student staff and interns**