



University of Dayton
School of
Engineering

**WE
SOAR**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DEAN'S

UPDATE

SPRING 2023



You did it - You Made All the Difference!

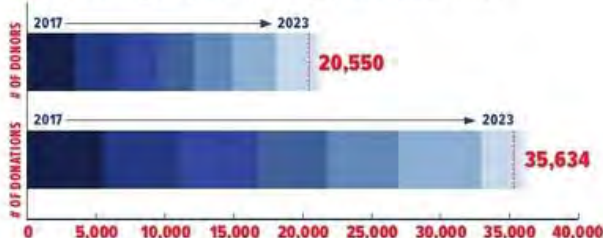
With sincere thanks, I send this message of gratitude to our faculty, staff, and students.

What a tremendous effort to come together and make it happen! Because of you, we could exceed our challenge goal of 585 individual donations, and an additional \$50,000 was donated to the School of Engineering. This funding will provide immediate impact allowing us to accelerate curricular innovation, reduce barriers to research, and scale up experiential learning opportunities.

A special thank you to our SoE 1DAY1DAYTON Volunteer Representatives: Colleen Bretland, Mary Ann Dodaro, Marie Gaeke, Judy Grant, Nan Holler-Potter, Jamie Obermeyer, Kevin Peirson & Dana Tobias!

Donations to scholarships

Since the beginning of the campaign (as of March 15, 2023)



Community is imperative

2023 CoNECD Rising Star Award

Dr. Gerica Brown

Congratulations to Dr. Gerica Brown, this year's recipient of the Rising Star in Diversity Award from The Collaborative Network for Engineering and Computing Diversity (CoNECD).



The Rising Star in Diversity award recognizes an individual in their profession for less than ten years who has actively worked to enhance diversity and inclusion by mentoring, supporting, and advocating for the success of historically underserved individuals in engineering or computer science, or for climate and culture change that supports such success.

The 2023 Women of UD

Rebecca Blust

Congratulations to Professor Becky Blust on her *Women of UD* honors!

The annual Women of UD exhibit highlights women's contributions at the University of Dayton and recognizes faculty, staff, and students who stood in the front and worked behind the scenes to enrich our community in various ways. Honorees have cultivated positive change, ensuring that processes, procedures, and services for the campus community have been rooted in the common good and mentored a generation of new professionals.



Says Becky, *"I love listening to people, and boy, more often than not, they have better ideas, and if you can get them to work with you, it will be more impactful. Luckily, we're all about experiential learning, but we have to learn how to make it more economical and accessible to everyone."*

Welcome to Alison Ekpelu, our new Multi-Ethnic Engineers Program (MEP) Director



Alison started on January 9th and joined us from CESO, Inc, where she served as a Project Engineer. Alison is also a graduate of our Civil Engineering program (Alison Gaines) and is very excited to be starting this position at UD where she has the opportunity to live out her passion for serving students within the Multi-Ethnic Engineers Program!

Welcome to Gretchen Kelly, Research Proposal Specialist



Gretchen has been a part of the UD community for several years. She earned her undergraduate degree in political science from

UD and her master of law in government contracting and procurement and MPA grant writing. Additionally, Gretchen completed a summer internship in applied mechanics program management at the University of Dayton Research Institute. Gretchen previously worked for UDRI as the assistant administrator/proposal specialist for the Contracts and Grants Office, and in 2022, she was nominated for the UDRI Outstanding Professional Award.

Welcome to Meredith Troxel, our new Director of Communications, Starting May 16



Meredith comes to us from the University of Toledo, where she served as the Market Account Coordinator, supporting five academic colleges working on communications & digital campaigns, and authoring articles for the university web pages. She earned her BA in Journalism and her MA in Strategic Communications from Bowling Green State University. In her new role, she will support the School of Engineering's communications needs by developing and managing the academic unit website, managing the social media platforms, providing graphic design, and cultivating and disseminating engineering information, news, and stories through multiple communications venues (blogs, displays within the engineering building, website, newsletters, social media, internal communications platforms/websites, etc.).

STUDENT SUCCESS

UD wins 2nd Place at the
National Society of Sales
Engineers annual
competition!



The local UD chapter of The National Society of Sales Engineers (NSSE) attended the organization's annual competition. This year the competition was at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC, and attended by over 15 universities nationwide. The UD club sent eight student members organized in 2-person teams.

The weekend consisted of skills-building workshops and networking events, culminating in the sales pitch competition. **UD took 2nd place overall while also bringing home the trophy for best Influencer, given to the team with the highest social media and networking activity.**

Jack Doll, founding president, says when asked what led him to start a new club, *"I knew about technical sales as a career path and then attended the first career fair seeing all the job opportunities for Sales Engineers. I started asking, why don't we have an organization focused on technical sales specifically for engineers? Every company has some sort of sales aspect!"*

In just one year, they have grown from an initial membership of six students to over 150, with an average attendance of 35+ at any given event. In addition, the executive team has cleverly engaged all members to practice their newly honed sales skills as they "sell" the club to their friends and classmates.

"I had a feeling that they were going to be successful from the moment they delivered their sales pitch on 'why I should be their advisor.' Their request seemed like a low throw given their passion and desire," said **Sean Cahill**, Faculty Advisor from the EMST department.

Blending the organization's goals with the desire to build a social community is key to their success. *"We want to take formal workshops seriously but have fun doing it. Blending formal and fun has been our motto,"* said **Zach Pope**. Their events have included guest speakers, interactive sales workshops, industry visits, leadership talks, national sales competitions, and many social gatherings. This year they have added philanthropic activities by

working with Brigid's Path, an organization focused on improving the health of newborn babies and mothers impacted by addiction.

The club recently conducted elections as they transitioned into their second full year. [Dylan Brown](#), incoming president, *"I am excited to be a part of an early stage club and look to build on the foundation established and carry on the culture."*

The club intends to hold multiple local sales competitions modeled after the National Competition. In addition, a regional competition is in the works, whereby they will leverage the contacts from surrounding universities, such as the University of Cincinnati and the University of Akron, to allow more club members the experience of preparing and delivering a sales pitch under pressure.

