

UC|21 – Achievements

Goal 1 – Place Students at the Center

🐾 Moving the Needle – UC|21 strategies continue to improve student retention and graduation rates. Retention has improved to 84 percent and the graduation rate has increased to 55 percent, both up 7 percentage points since 2003.

🐾 Satisfied Students – UC students report significantly increased satisfaction with their college experience in the latest Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI). The student survey shows improved levels of satisfaction in 75 out of 82 measures with no areas with decreases.

🐾 College Portrait – Building on its history of assessment with the UC|21 Report Card, UC becomes the first public Ohio four-year university to post the College Portrait on the Web. The move is part of the University System of Ohio's agreement to present the Ohio College Portrait for all public colleges and universities and the USO's commitment to join the national Voluntary System of Accountability. The portrait provides data designed to help current and prospective students, their families, policymakers and others better understand the university and the value it offers to students.

🐾 Kudos for the CAT – UC's Center for Access and Transition, which works to help under-prepared students make a smooth and quick transition into college degree programs, wins an outstanding Institutional Advising Program Certificate of Merit from a national association of advising professionals. The award will be presented in October.

Goal 2 – Grow Our Research Excellence

🐾 Record High – Research dollars coming in to UC and its affiliates hit an all-time high in 2007 of \$333.5 million. In addition to the College of Medicine, several colleges saw significant increases in their total research funding for 2007, including Allied Health Sciences, Business and the College-Conservatory of Music, as well as the Graduate School. UC stands among the nation's top research universities, according to the National Science Foundation, and the university is designated in the most prestigious "very high research activity" category by the Carnegie Foundation.

🐾 Exploring the Galaxy – Thomas Jefferson and Alan Shepherd are the names on two new endowed chairs made possible thanks to a \$20 million anonymous gift in support of space exploration research and education. The gift marks the largest bequest in UC's history by an individual.

🐾 Industry-Funded Research Fights Obesity – UC researchers partner with Ethicon Endo-Surgery to gain a better understanding of the basic biology behind obesity. A three-year, \$10.3 million commitment from the medical device company supports UC scholars and Ethicon Endo-Surgery engineers as they work to find new solutions for treating obesity and related conditions, including diabetes.

🐾 Showcasing Undergraduate Research – Cincinnati neighborhoods, sustainability and safe water are just a few of the topics student researchers pursue in the university's first campus-wide undergraduate research poster session. The event at Tangeman University Center displays more than 70 student posters.

🐾 Retaining Sophomores – First-year experience efforts expand into the second year as a UC center that helps students decide on a major launches the Cincinnati Sophomore Initiative (CSI) to assist sophomores. The CSI, housed in the Center for Exploratory Studies, works to get second-year students more involved with advisors and alumni who can help define college career direction and offer support and education at a time when students are most susceptible to giving up on college.

🐾 Engineering Puts Students First – The College of Engineering's efforts to place students at the center bring about curricular changes that allow first-year students to change majors within engineering without loss of credit, a new Department of Engineering Education that revolutionizes the way the college's undergraduates are taught, especially during the first two years, and a new "Bill of Rights" for students identifying professors' responsibilities.

🐾 Stepping Up on Accountability – The university advances the cause of student learning by appointing a vice provost for assessment and student learning who will direct and coordinate assessment efforts throughout UC, overseeing the General Education program, coordinating efforts around the Voluntary System of Accountability, and continuing the development of Integrated Core Learning (ICL), a key UC|21 effort.

🐾 Around-the-Clock Computer and Study Space – UC Libraries and UCit partnered to open UCit@Langsam, a 24/7 computer and study space. The facility provides 100 computers, wireless access, a quiet study room, and four group study rooms for collaborative work. A direct response to students' requests for a place to study and work 24/7, UCit@Langsam has experienced heavy use since opening in January 2008.

🐾 Taking Flight With Aerospace – From the Ohio Research Scholars Program, UC wins \$28 million for an aerospace research program focusing on power and propulsion. The UC-led consortium includes The Ohio State University and the University of Dayton, with funding for five new Ohio Research Scholars – three at UC, one at OSU and one at UD.

🐾 Faculty Distinctions – UC scholars and researchers once again win acclaim. Among this year's prestigious award winners are:

- Jay Hove, a physiologist who studies the "flow" of fluid and cells within organs and organ systems in the molecular and cellular physiology department, received the highest honor awarded to young scientists in our nation, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).
- Margaret Kupferle, Jason Heikenfeld and Carlos Co, all of the College of Engineering, won the National Science Foundation's CAREER award.
- Arnold Strauss and Alan Jobe, both of pediatrics, were elected members of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.
- Jeffery Molkentin, researcher in the division of molecular cardiovascular biology at Cincinnati Children's and the department of pediatrics at the College of Medicine, was named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) investigator.

🐾 Taking on Parkinson's – A \$5.5 million gift establishes the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders at the Neuroscience Institute at UC and University Hospital. The gift from the James J. and Joan A. Gardner Family Foundation endows clinical and research programs while accelerating collaboration among scientists and physicians.

Goal 3 – Achieve Academic Excellence

Among the Best – Academics, reputation, diversity and student praise again land UC in the Princeton Review's 2009 best universities guide. The review ranks UC No. 19 on the top 20 list of universities with a diverse student population.

Global Recognition – UC continues to lead globally in international student satisfaction. The 2007 International Student Barometer ranks UC fourth in overall student satisfaction, out of 84 universities surveyed.

Triple Crown – A senior design project by Ryan Eder wins the "Olympics" of the industrial design profession and a feature in *BusinessWeek* magazine. As a student project, Eder designed a workout system for people who use wheelchairs. The project not only wins in what is arguably the world's most prestigious professional industrial design competition, it also makes history by being the first ever to win a "trifecta" of global honors in the International Design Excellence Awards. All told, it won a "Gold," a "Best of Show" and the global online popular vote, the "Viewer's Choice" award. Eder's project is the first to ever win all three awards in the professional worldwide contest.

Goal 4 – Forge Key Relationships and Partnerships

Co-op Records – UC students earn \$35 million in 5,238 co-op job placements during 2007-08, a historic high in both numbers of placements and the collective paycheck earned in a single year by students participating. UC's co-op program ranks in the nation's Top 10 by *U.S. News & World Report* and has seen a 23.5 percent increase in the number of placements over the last five years.

Prestigious Partnership – UC receives its largest donation in history – an in-kind contribution of \$421 million from an organization called PACE – Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education. The PACE designation places UC into an elite class of universities – the first school in Ohio and one of only 22 in the United States – to earn this honor from the partnership that includes GM, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett Packard, EDS and Siemens PLM Software.

Community Stewardship – President Zimpher serves as chair of the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber during 2008 with UC faculty and staff playing a lead role in Agenda 360, a regional planning initiative. The effort, led by the chamber, encompasses four counties on this side of the river (Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont) and focuses on a competitive economy, educational excellence, livable communities, the urban renaissance and effective governance.

Striving for Better Schools – With partnership and leadership from UC, the Strive collaboration, aimed at ensuring that every student in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky graduates from high school and college, releases its first baseline report card on student progress in Cincinnati, Newport and Covington.

Joining Forces Against Cancer – UC, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and University Hospital form a strategic partnership to establish a joint cancer program that will coordinate oncology care from childhood to adulthood in southern Ohio and beyond. The founding institutions commit a total of up to \$60 million in seed money over the next five years to move this important partnership forward.

Brighter than Ever – Fall quarter 2008 opens with the most academically prepared freshman class on the Uptown Campus, with average ACT scores rising to 24.8, up from 24.1 last year, and average SAT scores reaching 1125, up from 1109 last fall. The first-year class also holds a record number of National Merit Scholars at 44.

Sun-sational Creation – A house powered exclusively by solar energy and constructed by more than 200 UC students majoring in business, engineering and design vies in the international Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington D.C. UC, one of only 20 universities from around the world selected to compete, receives national attention from outlets such as National Public Radio and *BusinessWeek*. The house enters a second phase of its life as a learning lab currently by UC faculty and students in architecture, engineering and physics.

Hands-on Learning, Pharmacies Make Winning Combination – The James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy wins the 2008 Crystal APPLE given by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The award recognizes the college's faculty and administrators as well as their collaborating "practice partners" for excellence in experiential education and providing students with clinical experiences. Michael Hegener, PharmD, and Community Pharmacy Care, owned and operated by the Ruwe family, are the recipient practice partners.

Digital First – UC becomes one of the first Ohio public universities to provide public content on iTunes U. Created in 2007, iTunes U offers free content such as course lectures, language lessons, lab demonstrations, sports highlights and campus tours provided by many top U.S. colleges and universities. The site is accessible through iTunes or at www.uc.edu/itunes.

STEM Partnership Schools – UC partners with the Cincinnati Public Schools, Strive and others to establish two new schools focused on the critical disciplines of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). A \$600,000 award from the state will help create a STEM high school at Hughes Center across the street from campus. Another \$500,000 state award results in a new STEM elementary school at Taft, opened on August 19.

Living Laboratory – UC and the Hamilton County Park District team up to create a new Cincinnati Center for Field Studies for our students in archaeology, environmental studies and geology to pursue real-life case studies. The center will open at the Knollman complex, also known as the South Family Shaker Complex, in Miami Whitewater Forest.

Crosstown Helpout – UC and Xavier volunteers joined forces in a newly formatted Crosstown Helpout. This year's effort used the combined energy of volunteers to build a new playground for the Skyline Community Center YMCA in Colerain Township, to complete an exercise and walking trail that runs around the entire property, and to landscape and refurbish the center's outdoor basketball court.

Expert Analysis – UC's Center for the City releases its first commissioned white paper examining an important community issue. The study, by the Economics Center for Education & Research, examines the risks versus the benefits of the proposed streetcar for Cincinnati.

Goal 5 – Establish a Sense of Place

Green Team – UC joins the City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County Commissioners, Cincinnati Public Schools and Duke Energy Ohio to launch the Green Partnership for Greater Cincinnati (GPGC), a new collaboration to share best practices and encourage the adoption and implementation of environmentally friendly policies by the partners.

Football Field of Dreams – Thousands of UC fans cheer the Bearcats on to victory in the PapaJohns.Com Bowl in December, topping a football season that drew a 69 percent increase in attendance during fall 2007, including three sellouts. The team concluded with a 10-win gridiron season, UC's first since 1951 and first top 20 finish ever (17th in the nation). Season ticket sales for 2008 season stand at a record high.

UCATS Records – UCATS membership rises from approximately 1900 to almost 3000, the all-time high, since March 2007. In addition, UCATS annual fund contributions for 2007-2008 were up \$900,000 to \$5.2 million.

Goal 6 – Create Opportunity

Climbing Enrollment – Fall 2007 brought UC its largest first-year class in 16 years, while fall 2008 enrollment hits an 18-year record at over 37,000. The number of transfer students increases over 20 percent. Distance learning, an integral part of the university's 21st century approach to meeting students' diverse educational needs, is projected to increase nearly 15 percent, with 2,946 students enrolled in distance-learning programs.

Diversity Council Progress – To gain more insight on the university's efforts related to diversity, the Diversity Council conducts an inventory, identifying more than 570 initiatives to support diversity in colleges and units, mostly in the areas of programming and courses. In addition, the university's Board of Trustees approves a new mission statement embracing a diversity commitment. An anonymous donor presents a \$5 million gift to support diversity scholarships.

Gateway Revision – UC, the Uptown Consortium and private developers begin negotiations for the first major redevelopment in decades of University Plaza, a critical gateway to the university and surrounding neighborhoods.

Primary Candidate Visits – During the presidential primary race, nearly 12,000 people, including faculty, staff, students and members of the general public, pack UC's Fifth Third Arena as the university hosts an appearance by a presidential candidate.

Cutting-Edge Spaces – The Center for Academic Research Excellence (CARE)/Crawley Building, a highly visible gateway to the Academic Health Center's research corridor, adds six floors of research facilities and laboratories to the medical campus, including the Edith J. Crawley Vision Science Research Laboratory. A nine-story glass atrium connects the CARE/Crawley Building to the Medical Sciences Building, where a five-phase renovation is under way. Lead designer was Erik Sueberkrop, a UC alumnus, of San Francisco-based STUDIOS Architecture.

Addressing the STEM Challenge – UC wins well over \$8 million in Choose Ohio First Scholarship funding from the Ohio Board of Regents to attract hundreds more students, including many first-generation, underrepresented populations and low-income students, into the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines so critical for Ohio's economic development. Teaming with Sinclair Community College and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College on one program, Ohio University and Central State on another, and more than 200 business around Ohio on a third, the scholarship programs build on UC's strengths in cooperative education, business relationships and interdisciplinarity.

STEM Teaching Boost – A partnership aimed at building diversity in STEM-teaching fields gets underway with 44 high-school students. The \$255,000 Ohio Board of Regents-funded Southwest Center of Excellence STEM Teaching Academy – one of eight OBR-funded partnerships around the state to create STEM and foreign language academies – is a partnership of UC, Miami University, Cincinnati Public and Princeton City Schools.