

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON**

*A Vision of Excellence*

9 September 2005

A year ago we presented you with a draft document that many members of our community had spent countless hours discussing and revising. Although a great deal of time and thought had already gone into that draft, we knew that it was far from finished. We needed the critical insights of everyone who wished to participate in defining who we are and what we aspire to become. The past year of conversation, deliberation, critique, and constant rewriting has resulted in the document we offer to you today, the final version of *A Vision of Excellence*.

*A Vision of Excellence* affirms our identity as a Catholic, Marianist, innovative, and transformative university that forms distinctive graduates by educating the whole person through integrating learning and living in community. Building on these statements, the document proceeds to articulate the principle areas in which we will fulfill our commitment to excellence in transformative education. It is upon this foundation that we will construct the next crucial components of our collective vision for the future of the University of Dayton.

*A Vision of Excellence* is, therefore, both an end and a beginning. It concludes the process through which we have articulated our identity and commitments. But it is just the beginning of a process through which we will determine the best ways to achieve the goals we have set for ourselves. We now invite every member of our University community to help us turn this vision into reality. This will be hard work. Many decisions will have to be made in order to fulfill the promise of genuine institutional change and growth. We look forward to the spirited conversations, constructive criticism, and shared sense of purpose that will shape those decisions. Throughout this process we will reaffirm our commitment to the Marianist principles of genuine inclusiveness and respect for all who are willing to work for the common good.

We are deeply grateful to the many people who gave so much of themselves to help us create this document, particularly Professor Sean Wilkinson who wrote repeated drafts of the *Vision*. We also owe a profound debt to *Vision 2005*, which is the basis from which the *Vision of Excellence* evolved and has inspired and guided us throughout this process. Now it is your turn once again. Please help us fulfill our extraordinary collective potential by sharing your ideas and working with us to reach our vision.

Daniel J. Curran, Ph.D., President

Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D., Provost