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New Ohio Dominican president wants to develop identity

** New leader will be inaugurated during special ceremony Thursday, Sept. 25.*

By PAMELA WILLIS

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New Ohio Dominican President Brian Nedwek wants to continue to "internationalize" the university and enhance global educational options.

"It is extremely important for us to find ways to internationalize Ohio Dominican, by expanding the number of study abroad opportunities for students and faculty and by discovering ways we can attract international students and faculty," he said.

"A liberally educated person in the 21st century must be globally literate."

Nedwek, 67, will be inaugurated as the 14th president of Ohio Dominican University at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Matesich Theatre in Erskine Hall, at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus. A community reception for the Ohio Dominican community and inaugural attendees will be held 5-6:30 p.m. in the Colonial Room at Sansbury Hall.



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Formerly acting president and vice president of academic affairs at Maryville University in St. Louis, Nedwek said he was attracted to Ohio Dominican because of its foundation in faith.

"The university is genuinely a faith-based institution which is expressed in its programming and how it deals with students, faculty and staff," he said.

"That is important during these times, when faith-based institutions are struggling for an identity and market niche."

Another attraction was the campus-improvement initiative.

"The university is building a \$21 million student center, is committed to create state-of-the-art science facilities and is expanding residential housing," he said. "From the facility side, those were all critical for us to be competitive in the market place."

Nedwek also had personal reasons for the move.

"I have two daughters in Cleveland and my wife is from the Sandusky and the Springfield area, so it is a chance to plant some roots where members of my family live," he said.

Nedwek and his wife, Judith, have two daughters, Elizabeth Grace and Sarah and three grandchildren, Ryan, 6, Connor, 4, and Caroline, 2.

Nedwek earned a bachelors degree and masters degree in political science from Marquette University and a doctorate in political science from the University of Wisconsin.

His first teaching role was assistant professor at Alverno College, where he earned tenure as professor in 1982. He then served as acting dean of the graduate school, associate vice president for academic affairs, acting academic vice president and associate provost.

He became dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Detroit Mercy, from 1998 to 2001,

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then took on the role of vice provost at St. John's University.

In 2004, Nedwek became vice president for academic affairs at Maryville. In that capacity, he managed a \$42 million operating budget and \$36 million endowment and led the university's strategic planning process, directing the capital campaign for a new \$15 million health and science facility.

At Ohio Dominican, Nedwek wants to "sharpen the Catholic and Dominican identity of the institution" and enhance academic programming.

"We want to enhance programming through a redesigned honors program, increase the number of full-time faculty slots and support faculty development initiatives, especially in terms of new teaching techniques," he said.

"I'd also like to substantially increase our students' sense of engagement on campus, by becoming more residential and stepping up with stronger programming, so students find the campus to be both attractive and vibrant."

Nedwek said accomplishing that could include not only remodeling of classrooms and the library but expanding student residential populations through apartment-style living on campus.

"In listening to the governor of Ohio in a meeting I had yesterday in state chambers, along with the president of Battelle and the lieutenant governor and head of the Senate, it is clear to me that Ohio Dominican is going to be a strong player in our neighborhood revitalization," he said.

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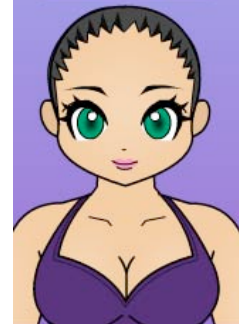
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