

PRESS RELEASE

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Gannon University Gives Gift to the City of Erie

Erie, PA; Gannon University is giving back to the City of Erie today. The University announced that they are giving a cash contribution of half a million-dollars, which will be used for Public Safety initiatives. The economic impact resulting from the subsidy will occur over the span of the next five years. "The contribution, which will be made in five annual contributions of \$100,000, will be used to defray the costs of public safety equipment," said Joseph Sinnott, Erie Mayor.

"Gannon University is vitally committed to supporting the health and vibrancy of the City of Erie," said Gannon President Keith Taylor, Ph.D. Taylor said that the contribution comes as the culmination of several months of discussion between the University and city officials.

"As the only university in Erie's downtown area, we recognize the futures of Gannon University and of the city are impossible to separate. Therefore, an investment in the city is an investment in the future of Gannon for our students, faculty and staff."

The contribution is subsequent to a similar series of annual contributions that were made beginning in 2010. Those contributions, which totaled \$250,000 over three years, were used to purchase vehicles and equipment for the Erie Bureau of Fire and the city of Erie Police Department.

Taylor pointed to the creation of the Erie-Gannon Alliances to Improve Neighborhood Sustainability (Erie-GAINS) initiative, which coordinates strategic initiatives between the University, government agencies, community organizations and businesses to stimulate positive change and improve the sustainability and viability of downtown Erie and the neighborhoods surrounding campus.

Erie-GAINS initiatives in the City of Erie include a tutoring program for more than 50 students, the after-school program at Martin Luther King Community Center, the GoCollege program that provides academic support and mentoring for high school students at Strong Vincent High School that prepares students to transition into post-secondary education, and assists with college applications and career guidance, and the Club Fit program for girls at East High, an after-school fitness program in a renovated exercise room, as well as instruction in overall wellness, health education and healthy food options to facilitate success in participants at many levels including self-confidence, self-esteem and positive behaviors and academic success.

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For the urban environment, Gannon students planted and maintained over 140 trees during the Tree Vitalize project in the Erie-GAINS neighborhood. At the periphery of the campus neighborhood, Gannon University has led the effort to make dramatic changes to Gridley Park on W. 6th Street on the city's west side, including improvements in landscaping, the construction by Gannon volunteers of a playground near Emerson-Gridley School, and the restoration of the monument on Liberty Street dedicated to Capt. Gridley 100 years ago.

Gannon also plans to spend \$15 million over the next four years on academic facility construction projects. These projects are in addition to the \$14.5 million project to modernize the University's Recreation Center, which is among the largest construction projects in terms of payroll and construction jobs in the downtown area.

Taylor attributed these projects as an investment that is already having a positive effect on Gannon's ability to attract students to Erie and its downtown campus. He noted that enrollment at Gannon increased for the 2013-14 academic year, and exceeds 4,200 students, including the highest number of full time student in 25 years.

With a payroll of 875 faculty and staff members, these two numbers represent a great deal of spending power concentrated in the heart of Erie.

About Us:

Gannon University is a Catholic, Diocesan university in Erie, Pa., offering nearly 100 academic programs, including doctoral degree programs in physical therapy and organizational learning and leadership. Gannon enrolls more than 4,000 academically talented and diverse students.

Gannon University is dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. Inspired by the Catholic Intellectual Tradition, the University offers a comprehensive, values-centered learning experience that emphasizes faith, leadership, inclusiveness and social responsibility.

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