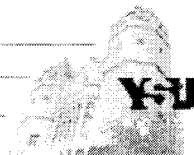




- prospective students
- current students
- faculty and staff
- alumni, donors, & community



## YSU NEWS

YSU News

2003-08-28

**Media Contact:** Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, 330-941-3285 or [racole.01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole.01@ysu.edu).

### Cushwa family, YSU create graduate fellowships

A prestigious graduate fellowship program expected to attract bright, advanced thinkers capable of impacting local economic development efforts will be created under a restructuring of the Cushwa Center for Business Development at Youngstown State University.

The center, established in 1978 through an endowment from the Cushwa family and Commercial Shearing Inc., will be discontinued. The center's resources will be redirected to create the Charles B. Cushwa Jr./Commercial Shearing Inc. Graduate Student Scholarship/Fellowship Fund at YSU.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to bring outstanding students to campus who will pursue activities aimed at promoting economic development by assisting area businesses and contributing to the development of new business ventures in the Mahoning Valley," said Tony Atwater, YSU provost and vice president for academic affairs.

University officials emphasized that the Ohio Small Business Development Center at YSU will continue. The SBDC provides consulting services ranging from financial analysis to market research for area businesses.

"The SBDC remains open and we will continue to serve business owners and managers in the region," said Ron Chordas, YSU assistant provost.

Under the restructuring of the Cushwa Center, as many as five, two-year fellowships in engineering, math, science or technology will be awarded annually, each including full tuition and a monetary stipend. Students will complete the fellowship, which also will be supported by funds from YSU and the YSU Foundation, as part of their academic work to receive a master of science or other graduate degree opportunities.

"These will be the most prestigious fellowships at YSU," said Robert Bolla, dean of YSU's College of Arts and Sciences.

"The fellowships will enhance YSU's competitive position in attracting high-caliber graduate students," said Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of YSU's Rayen College of Engineering and Technology.

The Cushwa Center for Business Development, located in the Youngstown Business Incubator in downtown Youngstown and supported by a \$1.5 million endowment, was established to assist inventors, innovators and businesses in developing new products and processes for commercialization.

"We have spent the past two years reviewing the progress and impact of the center and connection between the community and the university," William Cushwa Sr. said.

"Advisors from the family and the former Commercial Intertech, with assistance from the YSU Foundation, concluded that this fellowship program will provide the greatest impact to the most individuals and businesses in the region while remaining true to the original goals of the endowment."

Charles B. Cushwa III, a member of the YSU Board of Trustees, said he believes the resources of the university in terms of economic development will be more effective with this restructuring.

"The addition of these students will allow the faculty the extra manpower needed to further develop business opportunities, including new patents and other technological development," he said. "We feel this is an important function of the university's part in economic development."

The new graduate fellowship program is designed to provide students the opportunity to pursue advanced degrees, get job experience in the region and offset some of the financial challenges of continuing their education. In addition, the community will benefit from these scholars interacting with local businesses and bringing the resources of the university into the local economy.

[Back](#)

[Top](#)



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