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YSU signs partnerships with Central State, Thiel

YOUNGSTOWN – Youngstown State University officials today signed agreements to develop educational partnerships with Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, and Thiel College in Greenville, Pa. The partnerships allow undergraduate students at Central State, Ohio's only historically black public university, and Thiel, a small, private college in Mercer County, to more easily enroll in master's degree programs at YSU. "These are the first agreements of their kind for YSU's graduate school," Dr. Peter Kasvinsky, dean of graduate studies at YSU, said before the agreements were signed at a ceremony on the YSU campus.

"We look forward to establishing similar ties with other area colleges. It provides mutual gains for both sides." The agreement with Central State will provide opportunities for students receiving undergraduate degrees at Central State to enter graduate programs at YSU, with a particular focus on master's programs in biology, chemistry, civil/environmental engineering, environmental studies, mathematics and criminal justice. One Central State graduate already is enrolled in the master's program in YSU's geological and environmental studies department as part of the agreement.

In addition, the partnership will enable collaboration between faculty at YSU and Central State in submitting grant requests to federal, state and private funding agencies, and it will open opportunities for faculty exchanges between the two schools.

"This partnership will enrich the educational experiences of faculty, administrators and students at both of our institutions," Central State President Dr. John W. Garland said, who was among about 25 Central State faculty and administrators and several students who attended today's signing on the YSU campus.

"We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with our colleagues at YSU."

YSU President Dr. David C. Sweet said the agreement with Central State reflects his continued commitment to seeking partnerships to better meet YSU's educational mission and to increasing campus diversity.

"This agreement fosters collaboration among two important educational institutions in the state of Ohio," Sweet said. "It will help us realize a vision of diversity for both universities and enrich the experiences of students, faculty and administrators."

The Thiel agreement sets up a unique relationship with YSU: Students who have already received their undergraduate degrees and have been selected as resident hall directors at Thiel will enroll in YSU's master of science in education program in counseling. They will simultaneously serve as resident advisors at Thiel and graduate students at YSU.

Four Thiel graduates, along with a graduate of YSU, who are now serving as resident directors at Thiel, are currently enrolled in YSU master's programs under the new partnership.

"There really are so many winners in a partnership like this," said Dr. Lance A. Masters, Thiel president and chief executive officer, who was among six Thiel representatives at today's signing ceremony on the YSU campus.

"The students living in our residence halls certainly are winners because they will have better-qualified staff to serve their needs, and they are better qualified because they are getting a world-class education at an institution like YSU."

YSU, founded in 1908, is a 12,700-student comprehensive university offering degrees on the associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels, including more than 100 undergraduate majors.

Thiel, founded in 1866, is an independent 1,200-student liberal arts, sciences and professional studies college related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and offers associate's and bachelor's degrees in more than 30 majors.

Central State, whose beginnings can be traced to the late 1800s, is located in Wilberforce, near Dayton, and offers bachelor's degrees in several majors as well as a master's degree in education.

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