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U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan presents YSU President David Sweet with a check for \$4.1 million yesterday afternoon.

## Tim Ryan brings \$4.1 million check to YSU

By: Bill Rodgers  
NEWS EDITOR

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Liberty, presented Youngstown State University with a check for \$4.1 million yesterday afternoon, which university President David Sweet said was the largest allocation for an Ohio university and the largest in YSU history.

"In our nearly 100 year history, this is the largest federal funding earmark ever received by YSU," Sweet said.

The money will go toward

improving roadways for pedestrians and advancing the university's materials engineering program.

Ryan said that money served two purposes: improving the quality of life in the city and providing the means to further research and development in the area.

"This is one of the better parts of my job, getting money back to my district," Ryan said.

The \$2 million for the materials engineering program and \$2.1 million for

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campus roadway improvements was included in the 2005 Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century, recently approved by Congress and signed by President Bush.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the William Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, said the \$2 million would help re-establish a Materials Engineering Program and focus on academics and research. She also said the

program would focus on the "next generation" of metals and other materials, such as light-weight metallic alloys and metal foams for use in the transportation industry.

Hirtzel said that engineering students have been working with local companies to bring new products to commercialization. Hirtzel said that a proposed Materials Curriculum was presented to Academic Senate this year

and was waiting for approval.

The \$2.1 million from the bill would focus on making improvements to Wick, Fifth and Rayen avenues, focusing on pedestrian safety and traffic. Sweet said that the improvements would fit in with the timeframe of YSU's 2008 Centennial Campus Master Plan and Youngstown 2010.

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