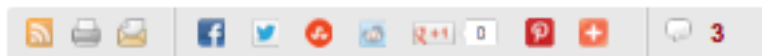


EDITORIAL: Russi deserves kudos for OU leadership

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During Gary Russi's tenure as president, Oakland University has evolved into a top-rated academic institution, and he has become a well-regarded leader in the region.

Under his tutelage since 1996, Oakland University created a 10-year plan that paved the way for Oakland's unprecedented growth in stature and size that helped the university realize its institutional priorities.


Now, with more than 19,000 students, it is recognized as top-rated academic institution on the rise.

With Russi's support, OU has forged numerous partnerships and alliances in Michigan and throughout the world. Together with business and industry, local health care organizations, corporations and educational institutions, these collaborations are creating opportunities for achievement and growth.


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"I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Russi since I was student body president at OU in 1998," said Rochester Hills Mayor Bryan Barnett.

"Previously as a councilman and now as mayor, I got to work with him continually. I am absolutely impressed with his vision for the university."

Barnett said Russi, who earned a doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of Kansas, is co-chairman of Rochester Hills Mayor's Business Council, established to support business development in the city where part of the campus is located.

In addition, during Russi's tenure, Oakland has invested more than \$190 million to enrich environments for teaching, researching, learning and living.

Under his leadership, OU has made capital improvements of more than \$215.5 million.

The formation of the new medical school – the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine – is likely to generate billions in future projects for the region, Barnett said.

In Russi, "You see a man who has a vision and can navigate very challenging political and economic difficulties to stay focused on an end goal and deliver for the university and has been an absolutely fantastic president and partner with surrounding business and communities.