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HIGHER EDUCATION

UD awarded \$2M to advance semiconductor training

By Thomas Gnau
Staff Writer

Nearly \$2 million for the University of Dayton to advance training in the semiconductor industry has been secured, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner said in a joint announcement Tuesday.

The funding was awarded through the National Institute of Standards and Technology and will help bolster UD's Southwest Ohio Integrated Microsystems Workforce & Research Center.

UD first announced the objective of such a center in the autumn of 2022, weeks after Intel broke ground for dual Columbus-area semiconductor fabrication plants, with a projected workforce of 3,000 people.

Andrew Sarangan, chair of UD's Department of Electro-Optics and Photonics, said in an interview that UD still awaits official word of the funding award from the National Institute of Standards and Technology. But he expressed confidence that the funding has been secured.

Training in this field is expensive, and expensive training equipment demanding ongoing maintenance is required, Sarangan said.

"It's expensive even on the training side," he said. "That's the business we're



University of Dayton electrical engineering student Malia Hoffmire (left) and UD OASIS program participant Leah Dalton work in the Kettering Lab on the UD campus on April 22. The two women are making semiconductors. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

engaged in."

UD's objective is to expand its semiconductor manufacturing cleanroom space to accommodate more undergraduate students, Sarangan said. The planned expansion will quadruple the cleanroom space, which currently stands at less than 1,000 square feet.

Today, only graduate students engaged in research can use the university's space, Sarangan said.

UD also seeks additional

funds for renovation of the space, he added.

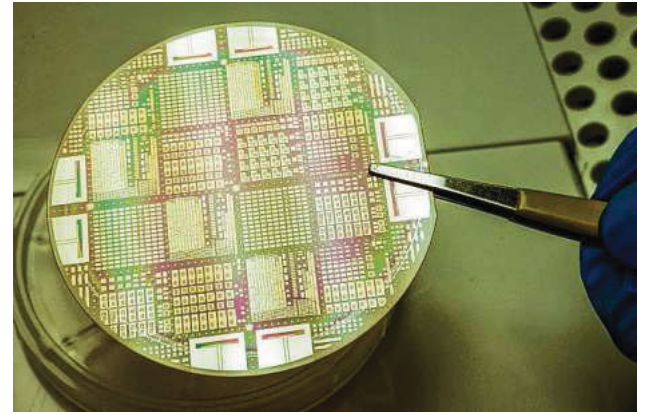
"When that happens, we'll be in a position to train people in cleanroom work ... hands-on training and in academic courses that would prepare them for working in leading industries," he said.

Sarangan said he is aware of the challenges Intel faces. The company has been identified as a possible takeover target in recent days, and in August, Intel said it would lay off some 15,000 workers.

"This is not just about Intel. This is about the whole semiconductor ecosystem, and there are many, many players," Sarangan said. "Intel is the most visible component of this."

But the industry remains crucial to the modern standard of living. Chips are found in everything from trucks to microwave ovens, he noted.

"Society will come to a grinding halt without semiconductor chips," he said.



Semiconductors are used in electronic devices, including phones and household appliances. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

"Ohio students and workers are going to lead in the industries of the future," said Brown, Ohio's senior senator and a Democrat. "With this investment at the University of Dayton, we are expanding opportunities for Ohioans to get the training they need to get a good-paying job, where they can build a life here in Ohio and help further our state's leadership in this crucial growing industry."

"I am proud to have helped secure funding to enhance the incredible work being done by the University of Dayton to train and educate the next generation of workers. Semiconductors are an important part of the global electronics industry, our national security and our

local economy. In Congress, I will continue to work on a bipartisan basis to find ways to make the Miami Valley a place where accelerated advanced manufacturing can succeed," said Turner, a Dayton Republican.

The university sought \$250,000 for the center, estimating that up to 500 new jobs were possible in an application to the Dayton Region Priority Development & Advocacy Committee two years ago.

"Reshoring of advanced chip manufacturing is a national priority and great opportunity for Ohio," UD said in its PDAC application.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

West Nile virus found in Dayton, Centerville mosquitoes

Areas to be sprayed this week; no cases reported in county.

By Daniel Susco
Staff Writer

Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County found mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile virus in traps in Dayton and Centerville, and will be spraying two areas this week.

In a release, the agency said that weather permitting, it will spray the area around Thurgood Marshall High School in Dayton and Benham's Grove in Center-

ville around dusk on Wednesday.

In Dayton, the high school parking lots, Beerman Avenue, Gerdendale Avenue, Elmhurt Road and Guenther Road will be sprayed.

In Centerville, Benham's Grove, Maple Avenue from Lakeview to Franklin, North Johanna Drive, East Drive, Benzell Drive and Broad-ripple Road will be sprayed.

Public Health said it will be spraying Duet, a mosquito control product that kills adult insects. It said that residents in the areas may be outdoors, that the mist will dissipate in five to 30 minutes depending on



Montgomery County will spray for mosquitoes around Thurgood Marshall High School in Dayton and Benham's Grove in Centerville.

reported human cases of West Nile virus in Montgomery County this year, and only two cases in 2023, the agency said.

Earlier this month, testing found infected mosquitoes in Vandalia and Fairborn, and mosquitoes tested positive for the virus over the summer in Clark County as well.

There are no vaccines to protect against West Nile virus and no medications to treat it, but Public Health said that most people infected do not feel sick. About one in five who are infected develop a fever and other symptoms, and one in 150 infected people develop serious illness.

The agency said that you can reduce your risk of contracting West Nile virus by using insect repellent containing DEET; wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts and light-colored clothing; installing screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out; and preventing water from pooling around your home by cleaning gutters, removing standing water from flower pots and buckets and regularly changing water in pet dishes and bird baths.

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BMV

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LaRose's office checks voter registrations using information from the BMV, the Department of Homeland Security's federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements database, the Social Security Administration, federal jury pool data, and other resources.

The Ohio BMV did not respond to a request for comment, though in previous comments BMV Registrar Charlie Norman said it is impossible for a noncitizen to register to vote at the BMV because certain documents must be provided before a person can register.

"I'm telling you it's not happening," Norman said. But a Dayton Daily News investigation this month found mistakes at the BMV have resulted in some noncitizens being registered to vote when they get their state ID or driver's license, including when the person says they are not a citizen, according to prosecutors, elections officials in three area counties and a local immigration attorney.

"We've had a disproportionate number of these issues happening at the BMV," said Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell, who's been prosecutor since 2011 and is a former a member of the Warren County Board of Elections.

Brian Sleeth, director of the Warren County board, recently reviewed 300 forms flagged by LaRose's office because records showed they were potentially noncitizens registered to vote. Most turned out to be naturalized citizens, and those who were not were removed from the



Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (pictured here with Jeff Rezabek, Montgomery County Board of Elections director, in 2022) has announced over 1,000 cases of alleged election fraud.



Charlie Norman is registrar of the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

voter registration rolls, Sleeth said. "I talked to a few of these non-citizen voters that got registered and they said the BMV told them that the boards would figure out if they should be registered or not. But Charlie Norman said that if the person at the BMV is not a citizen then a voter registration card will not print," Sleeth said. "Those recent noncitizen voter notices that we received, there were a few of these voters that registered at the BMV so I am not sure where the disconnect is."

Montgomery County Board of Elections Director Jeff Rezabek and Alisha Beeler, director of the Greene County board, both recalled cases in which noncitizens were mistakenly registered to vote by the BMV even though they had correctly identified themselves as noncitizens. Both said the individuals did

not try to vote.

Kathleen Kersh, senior attorney and project director at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) in Dayton, said in her 11 years of working with immigrant communities she has never met a noncitizen who knowingly registered to vote. But she has found some who were automatically registered without their consent by the BMV when they got a driver's license.

There can be delays in notification of naturalization, mistakes in the documentation at government offices, or misunderstandings when people are asked if they want to register to vote either at the BMV or when approached in public by people registering voters, said Catherine Turcer, executive director of Common Cause Ohio, a nonpartisan group focused on voting rights and election issues.

"It could easily be that somebody got confused, especially somebody who doesn't speak English," Turcer said. "If someone inadvertently, inappropriately registered to vote that is very different than somebody intentionally casting a ballot."



Montgomery County Board of Elections worker Chase Aivalotis checks voter registrations on Sept. 13. Ohio Attorney General Frank LaRose's office checks voter registrations using information from the BMV, the Department of Homeland Security's federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements database, the Social Security Administration, federal jury pool data and other resources. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

It is illegal in the U.S. for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and the Ohio Constitution prohibits noncitizens from voting in any elections. People must attest that they are citizens when they register but federal law prohibits requiring proof of citizenship for federal elections. LaRose proposes changing state law to require that Ohioans to prove citizenship before registering.

Voter fraud rare

There are about 8 million registered voters in Ohio.

Voter fraud by American citizens or noncitizens in the U.S. is exceedingly rare, according to studies by groups such as the liberal-leaning Brennan Center for Justice, the conservative Heritage Foundation and the libertarian-leaning

CATO Institute.

Since he took office in 2019 LaRose has announced more than 1,000 cases of alleged election fraud, mostly involving noncitizens allegedly registering to vote and about 200 who allegedly voted. Earlier this month he said 12 cases had resulted in prosecutions but his office did not say how many were convicted. In August LaRose also announced he had ordered 499 noncitizens removed from the registration rolls.

"The claim that every one of those people registered accidentally seems to defy the odds. Nevertheless, we'll always check out every allegation to make sure Ohio voters have absolute confidence in the integrity of our elections," Lusheck said.

The BMV and many pub-

lic assistance agencies are required to offer voter registration under the 1993 National Voter Registration Act.

Norman said people who apply for a driver's license or state ID must be Ohio residents and provide their full legal name, date of birth, and Social Security number and provide documents such as a passport, birth certificate or naturalization paperwork.

A noncitizen must show original federal immigration documents that the BMV checks electronically against a federal immigration database. State law requires that their license say they are a "noncitizen," Norman said.

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