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News

Macomb County Executive
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Human Resources & Labor Relations

For Immediate Release

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Agreement between Macomb County and Oakland University creates student internship opportunities

Oakland University (OU) and the Macomb County Department of Human Resources & Labor Relations have formalized a three-year agreement to place OU students into internship experiences in any of the county's 30-plus departments serving the public.

Kimberly Byrd, OU director of field & student support, said, "Many of our students live and work in Macomb County and want to secure jobs there. We've been working with Macomb County government for five years, but this formalized agreement expands our opportunities to place more OU students for practical learning experiences related to their academic program of study. Our students will also be able to network and open doors for future employment in the communities they call home."

Through the agreement, OU faculty and representatives will collaborate with county officials on student eligibility, placement and performance evaluation expectations, and internship program assessment and coordination.

"Macomb County is proud to partner with OU to provide internship opportunities for its students," said Karen L. Bathanti, interim director for Macomb County Human Resources. "Macomb County's diverse services are a natural fit for OU students in disciplines such as nursing, information technology, criminal justice and public administration. As a human resources leader, I believe partnerships with local universities are key to our success in providing excellent services to our community."

"Oakland University has a long tradition of producing work-ready graduates," said Dr. James Lentini, OU provost. "Our emphasis of learning-by-doing is a hallmark of our curriculum. Combining classroom theory with hands-on practical experience means our graduates are employable immediately and able to compete for the best jobs in the highest-paying and fastest-growing careers."

Oakland University is a nationally recognized doctoral research institution located on 1,443 acres in Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills. The university offers 132 bachelor's degree programs and 138 graduate degree and certificate programs in arts and sciences, business administration, education, engineering and computer science, health sciences, medicine and nursing. As one of Michigan's fastest-growing counties, Macomb County has been a significant part of OU's growth and expansion since its founding. In 1991, OU became a partner school at the newly established University Center on

Macomb Community College's campus in Clinton Township. OU opened its Anton/Frankel Center in Mount Clemens in 2011.

The Macomb County Department of Human Resources & Labor Relations (HRLR) is responsible for administering all employment-related activities for the county. A strategic partner to more than 30 departments providing a wide array of programs and services, HRLR's success is driven by a desire to create a positive work environment for the nearly 2,700 employees who are empowered to serve the residents of Macomb County.

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