

The University of Toledo



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The University of Toledo will have a many-faceted presence in the Toledo convention convocation complex. The convocation center's three floors are intended primarily as a continuing education facility in which UT will offer a wide variety of programs, particularly in non-credit courses, seminars and workshops. An information center also will be a key part of the building.

UT meeting room space in the new facility will be available to the convention center as needed on a scheduled basis. Conversely, the University will on occasion utilize convention center space on a scheduled basis. The mutual usage will be on a rental basis. The convention center kitchen facility also will service University needs.

Flexibility will permit the University to have as many as 16 separate rooms, depending on session requirements, as well as a large case-study room with tiered seating, an executive conference room and a room which could be used for teleconferencing. (A control room is adjacent to the latter.)

An information center will provide advice for admissions, registration, descriptions of the University, and an outlet for ticket sales of Centennial Hall concerts, SummerStage, and athletic events.

"We have long awaited the opportunity to be a part of downtown Toledo's new vitality. We are excited over the opportunity to exercise our role as corporate citizen and to serve the city, just as we continue to be excited over our educational role in Greater Toledo and northwest Ohio," UT President Glen R. Driscoll said.

The University plans to use certain undedicated office space as needed for special activities. Examples of use might be by UT's Urban Affairs Center when undertaking a city or city-county project, or the Management Center performing a similar task where proximity to public and corporate offices is desirable, according to Willard W. Smith, vice president for business affairs.

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Entrance to the UT convocation area will be at what is now the middle of St. Clair Street (it is to be vacated). The first floor will house the information center, and the case-study and executive conference rooms. The second floor will provide for a director's office and meeting rooms. The third floor will house meeting rooms, a large conference room, and the room for teleconferencing.

The position of director is now being advertised. That person will work with architects and contractors the first year; then begin scheduling courses, conferences and workshops, and finally begin administering the facility as a continuing education center, Mr. Smith said. He added that some of the course work offered may be for credit, that is work that would apply toward a college degree. But most will be of the non-credit variety, many of which carry continuing education credits or certification awards, he added.