The U.S. Department of State awarded a $4.7 million grant to the International Human Rights Law Institute (IHRLI) at DePaul University for its continuing work in Iraq.

The award, which is the largest single government grant ever given to the College of Law, will support legal education and human and women’s rights initiatives in Iraq.

“We are pleased to receive this substantial grant to help us continue and expand on programs we’ve already established in Iraq,” says Charles E. Tucker Jr., executive director of IHRLI. “These programs are designed to advance post-conflict rebuilding efforts and fulfill our commitment to help foster a more stable environment in Iraq.”

The grant will be used to help IHRLI move forward with its work to expand educational reform activities to additional Iraqi law schools, improve women’s participation in the Iraqi political process, expand training for nongovernment organizations and foster dialogue, consensus-building and reconciliation after the Iraqi national elections.

“Our long-term goal is to help support Iraq’s democratic transition by institutionalizing political processes that peacefully resolve disputes, strengthen rule-of-law skills and resources, and develop the capacity of civil society organizations, especially those focusing on women’s issues and human rights,” says Tucker.

IHRLI, which was established by the College of Law in 1990, has worked in Iraq since 2004. Its focus has been human rights training, post-conflict justice programs and human rights violation documentation.
DePaul University has provided excellent educational opportunities since our founding, affording students the surest path into the mainstream of American life.

When students seeking professional education were disenfranchised from doing so, the university took steps to acquire its first professional degree program, the College of Law. That same year, 1912, DePaul organized the College of Commerce and the School of Music. Today, our nine colleges and schools draw students and faculty from across the nation, even across the world, to the university and to Chicago.

Today we provide education to over 25,000 students, an enrollment milestone reached for the first time this past fall.

At DePaul, being a good community citizen means partnering with the educational community to increase the number of students who take algebra in high school. It means working with our neighbors to extend cultural opportunities for the public to participate in and enjoy. It means partnering with talented individuals from many industries to craft programs that educate students to think, create and lead.

I invite you to read more about our role in the community and thank you for your interest in DePaul.

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.
PRESIDENT

DePaul’s new Lincoln Park Master Plan approved

The Chicago City Council recently approved DePaul’s 10-year master plan for redeveloping its Lincoln Park Campus.

“DePaul University has been a core member of the Lincoln Park community for more than 100 years, and this redevelopment plan will allow us to better meet the goals of our strategic plan and become an even richer resource for the community,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University. “This new master plan will allow us to further strengthen the academic excellence mission underpinning our strategic plan. At the same time, it will allow DePaul’s Lincoln Park Campus to expand significantly its arts programming, to the benefit of the entire community.”

The master plan was the result of several years of collaboration among university officials, academics, students, local elected officials, architects and residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

The plan is centered on new facilities for DePaul’s School of Music, along the west side of the 2300 block of North Halsted Street, and The Theatre School at DePaul, to be situated at the southwest corner of Fullerton and Racine avenues. Both schools long have been regarded among the most prestigious and competitive programs of their kind in the nation, despite their aged and outmoded facilities.

Also planned are a new general classroom building in the 2300 block of North Kenmore Avenue, a new building to house the DePaul Art Museum and new Cacciatore Stadium seating at Wish Field.

The master plan will be funded through a variety of sources, including philanthropic support.
DePaul professor helps the deaf and hearing impaired improve their reading skills

Beverly Trezek, a special education professor in DePaul University’s School of Education, has devised a groundbreaking method to help deaf and hearing-impaired students learn to read.

The method combines an instructional tool called Visual Phonics with an SRA/McGraw-Hill scripted reading curriculum called Direct Instruction, which uses a systematic way to teach phonics. “Historically, the average deaf or hearing-impaired student graduating from high school tends to plateau in their reading at a fourth-grade level,” says Trezek. “That’s going to impact the kind of future and type of job that these students and young adults can have.

“I investigated various methods to help students visualize and represent sounds and found Visual Phonics, which allows teachers to use hand gestures and written symbols to teach students about sounds with visual, tactile and kinesthetic feedback instead of relying solely on hearing,” says Trezek, a licensed Visual Phonics trainer who co-authored a book titled “Reading and Deafness: Theory, Research and Practice” and has written numerous articles on the subject.

In a pilot study in 2000, Trezek found that after seven months of using Direct Instruction curriculum alone, students gained between 1.2 and 2.5 grade levels on standardized measures of basic reading and reading comprehension.

Trezek has traveled worldwide lecturing on this topic and training teachers on how to use the method. She also teaches it to future teachers in her classroom at DePaul.

Six distinguished leaders join DePaul’s Board of Trustees

Six business, educational and religious leaders, including three DePaul graduates, joined DePaul University’s Board of Trustees recently.

This brings the number of executives and influencers working locally and nationally on the university’s behalf to 43.

“We are privileged to have such a distinguished group dedicated to helping DePaul make an extraordinary education accessible to a diverse student population,” says the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., DePaul’s president.


Sebastian Cualoping is the CEO and president of Ampac International. He earned a bachelor’s degree from DePaul in 1977 and an MBA in 1981.

Jonathan F. Fanton is past president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, one of the country’s largest grant-giving organizations, where he served with distinction from 1999 to 2009.

Arnold Grisham is the president and chief executive officer of Alta Alliance Bank. He is a graduate of DePaul, earning an undergraduate degree in 1970 and an MBA in 1973.

The Rev. James Maher, C.M., is the vice president for Student Affairs at St. John’s University in New York.

Peter C. Argianas is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Gold Coast Bank. In 1990, he earned a bachelor’s degree in commerce from DePaul.
College of Law receives largest gift

Mary A. Dempsey (JD ’82), the first woman to chair the DePaul University Board of Trustees, and her husband, noted trial attorney Philip H. Corboy, have made the largest gift to date in the history of the DePaul University College of Law.

Their gift will create the Philip Corboy and Mary Dempsey Endowed Scholarship, which will be awarded annually beginning in the fall of 2010. The scholarship will provide partial scholarships to law students who demonstrate a financial need.

Dempsey and Corboy hope that their gift will give scholarship awardees monetary support while encouraging them to make a difference in the legal profession. Both Dempsey and Corboy have been widely recognized for their contributions to the legal profession as well as their public and community service.

DePaul University hits record-breaking enrollment

DePaul University set an all-time record for enrollment this academic year, surpassing 25,000 students for the first time. Also, the 2009 incoming freshman class was the most diverse ever.

“DePaul has achieved remarkable enrollment successes despite concerns about the economy that created a heightened level of uncertainty for most of the recruitment and enrollment cycle for universities nationally,” says David Kalsbeek, senior vice president for Enrollment Management and Marketing. “Our enrollment is up because of strategic decisions the university made to increase transfer and graduate students, and our freshman class reached our goals for both diversity and academic quality.”

Students invited to staff U.S. Olympic Committee’s press office

Four graduate journalism students and three recent alumnae from DePaul University’s College of Communication were selected to work in the U.S. Olympic Committee’s (USOC) press office during the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February.

“This is very unique,” says Bob Condron, director of media services for the USOC. “We have never done this with a United States university. These students earned their way to the Games through the incredible job they did at the U.S. Olympic Team Media Summit in Chicago last September.”

During the Olympics, the students and alumnae wrote and edited stories and arranged interviews with Olympic athletes. While enrolled in the program, DePaul journalism students have covered the Iowa presidential caucus, the presidential election and inauguration, and the 2016 Summer Olympics host city announcement in Copenhagen.

College of Commerce recognized in international business school ranking

DePaul University’s College of Commerce was recognized as an internationally known top business school in Eduniversal’s 2009 business school rankings.

“This ranking shows that DePaul, which already has a stellar reputation in the Chicago area for its strong academic profile, is now gaining a reputation internationally for its high-quality educational offerings,” says Ray Whittington, dean of the College of Commerce and Kellstadt Graduate School of Business.

Eduniversal is a Paris-based educational consulting organization that ranks the 1,000 best business schools in the world. The ranking was based on an international survey of business school deans and the ratings of a 12-member independent team of education experts, according to Eduniversal.
Commissioned by the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA), with student survey data compiled by researchers at DePaul’s Kellstadt Marketing Center of the College of Commerce, the study shows that the Loop’s higher education sector is a vital economic engine that contributes to the growth and overall health of the economy in the Chicago region (see highlights at right).

The institutions included in the study are located in the area bordered by branches of the Chicago River to the north and west, Lake Shore Drive to the east and Roosevelt Road. The findings update and expand upon research released by CLA last June and in 2004.

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

There are 65,499 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the Loop and South Loop, making the area the largest "college town" in Illinois.

These students spend about $266 million on goods and services, which results in a total of $580 million per year more spending in the regional economy.

Universities and colleges in the Loop spend $467.4 million on wages and salaries and generate a further $571 million worth of production of goods and services.

Higher education institutions spend an additional $857.6 million on goods and services, ranging from office furniture and supplies to insurance and utilities.

During the 2008-2009 school year, events and programs offered by just seven institutions drew a downtown audience of almost a half million attendees, adding to the cultural vitality of the Loop outside business hours.

Twenty-four higher education institutions in Chicago’s Loop, through employees, students and their own expenditures, generate more than $4 billion in regional economic activity annually, according to the 2009 Higher Education Economic Impact Report and Student Survey Update released in November.

Loop colleges generate $4 billion in regional economic activity

Twenty-four higher education institutions in Chicago’s Loop, through employees, students and their own expenditures, generate more than $4 billion in regional economic activity annually, according to the 2009 Higher Education Economic Impact Report and Student Survey Update released in November.

There are 65,499 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the Loop and South Loop, making the area the largest "college town" in Illinois.

These students spend about $266 million on goods and services, which results in a total of $580 million per year more spending in the regional economy.

Universities and colleges in the Loop spend $467.4 million on wages and salaries and generate a further $571 million worth of production of goods and services.

Higher education institutions spend an additional $857.6 million on goods and services, ranging from office furniture and supplies to insurance and utilities.

During the 2008-2009 school year, events and programs offered by just seven institutions drew a downtown audience of almost a half million attendees, adding to the cultural vitality of the Loop outside business hours.

Commissioned by the Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA), with student survey data compiled by researchers at DePaul’s Kellstadt Marketing Center of the College of Commerce, the study shows that the Loop’s higher education sector is a vital economic engine that contributes to the growth and overall health of the economy in the Chicago region (see highlights at right).

The institutions included in the study are located in the area bordered by branches of the Chicago River to the north and west, Lake Shore Drive to the east and Roosevelt Road. The findings update and expand upon research released by CLA last June and in 2004.

CHICAGOLOOPALLIANCE.COM

CHICAGOLOOPALLIANCE.COM
Contributing to this was the lack of qualified math teachers. In response, Lynn Narasimhan, associate dean of DePaul’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Center, and colleagues from the University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago partnered with the Chicago Public Schools to create the Algebra Initiative, a three-course sequence that qualifies middle-school instructors to teach the subject.

In the five years since the initiative enrolled its first cohort, 245 teachers have completed the sequence. High-school algebra courses have been introduced in about 150 schools, and 15 percent of CPS eighth-graders now complete the class.

The steady increase in the number of teachers qualified to teach algebra in middle school — and the growing number of students taking it — is having a positive impact throughout CPS.

“Teachers of lower grades are ramping up their curriculum to prepare their students for the class, while high schools are adding sections of honors geometry, advanced algebra, pre-calculus and AP calculus to serve students who complete algebra in eighth grade,” says Narasimhan.

Bolstered by success, the team continues to refine the algebra program. CPS recently began offering the sequence on-site at the home schools of interested teachers, eliminating travel time for participants and enticing more to enroll in the program.

The Algebra Initiative complements other programs sponsored by DePaul’s Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Center, which aim to increase the number of first-generation and minority students earning college degrees in math, science and technology.