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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Feb. 17, 2020**

**Otterbein University to Announce Ohio's Only Community Resource Campus Center for Racial Healing**

**9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday, February 19**

**The Point at Otterbein University**

**60 Collegeview Road – Westerville, Ohio**

As Ohio celebrates Black History Month, Otterbein University has been designated as a valuable community resource in starting conversations about race and social justice in central Ohio, launching a new campus center focused on changing the way community members think and talk about race-related issues.

Otterbein has been selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities as one of 23 universities to host Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Centers across the United States. Otterbein is the only institution in Ohio to receive this recognition.

As a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center, Otterbein will work with its own campus community as well as the Columbus City and Westerville City school districts to create positive narrative change about race; promote racial healing activities; and erase structural barriers to equal treatment and opportunity. Otterbein believes a deliberate, systematic and public effort of inclusion and healing is possible when everyone works together.

**What:** Hear from leaders of Otterbein, Westerville and Columbus about how this initiative will change the conversation about race in central Ohio.

**When:** Wednesday, February 19

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. - Live Announcement
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries, photo op/interviews

**Where:** The Point at Otterbein University, 60 Collegeview Road, Westerville

**Who:** Speaking at the event and available for interviews will be:

- John Comerford, president, Otterbein University.
- James Prysock, director for the Office of Activism and Social Justice, Otterbein University.
- Cheryl Ward, director of emotional and student support services, Columbus City Schools.
- Elizabeth Brown, council member, City of Columbus.
- Pastor Vaughn Bell, board member, Westerville City Schools.
- Valerie Cumming, vice mayor, City of Westerville.

**Photo and interview opportunities will be available.**

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