

## **URGENT MEDIA ADVISORY – May 24, 2001**

### **REGENTS GATHER THURSDAY TO DENOUNCE SENATE BUDGET**

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Board of Regents, led by Dr. Jeanette Grasselli Brown, meets (today) Thursday at 12 noon for an urgent media briefing prior to its monthly board meeting in Columbus.

The media briefing focuses on the Regents' efforts to denounce the two-year higher education budget proposed by the State Senate. The briefing will take place at the Board of Regents conference room, Rhodes Office Tower, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus. The regular board meeting starts at 1:30 p.m.

**There is still time to urgently address the state's fiscal condition, the Regents say.** In addition to a proposed budget that weakens and doesn't strengthen the economic engine of the state's future prosperity, two key issues to be discussed on Thursday will focus on Access Challenge and the Ohio Plan. Access Challenge, one of the more successful state programs devised by the General Assembly in conjunction with higher education in recent years, was damaged by decreased funding and will now lead to much higher tuition at community and technical colleges and university branch campuses around the state. This action comes at a time when Ohio's present under-educated status cripples the state's economic prosperity now and in the future. The Ohio Plan is a program of innovative responses to a changing workplace that was not funded at all by the House or the Senate.

**Governor Taft appoints the Regents. At today's media briefing, Regents Brown (Chagrin Falls), Thomas Noe (Toledo region), Edmund Adams (Cincinnati), Gerald Miller (Dayton) and Jerry Gordon (Cleveland region) are expected to provide short, focused remarks. A question and answer session will follow.**

#### **Media contacts:**

Michael M. Brown, 614-752-9480; 614-370-0075 (cell)  
Laura Massie, 614-466-7439; 614-306-1302 (cell)