

MEDIA ADVISORY – June 20, 2002

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REGENTS APPROVE RESEARCH AWARDS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – More than \$12 million in grants were awarded to Ohio research institutions Thursday at the June 2002 meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents.

The board approved the distribution of the Hayes Investment Fund Awards, a capital appropriations program funded by the Ohio General Assembly continuously since 1991 to make selective investments in university research infrastructure. The intent of the program is to enhance Ohio's industrial competitiveness, and to position Ohio's research programs to become nationally and internationally prominent in targeted areas.

The awards, ranging from \$500,000 to \$2 million, went to nine teams of researchers representing 18 universities and independent research facilities. The award winners were selected from among 51 proposals received. The lead institutions are The University of Akron, Bowling Green University, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, The Ohio State University, and Wright State University. Each team, however, includes at least two, and as many as nine, collaborating institutions. (A list of the award-winners is attached)

Some examples of how the awards will be used include: purchasing high-powered equipment for semiconductor and polymer research, developing a statewide genome research institute, and encouraging the development of a cost-effective means of measuring dioxin and similar pollutants.

Each proposal was evaluated according to criteria that included the project's potential for national excellence, the capabilities of the project investigators, the potential for leveraging future support from federal and industrial resources, and meaningful collaboration.

The Hayes Awards are named for Edward F. Hayes, a former vice president for research and a renowned chemistry researcher at Ohio State University, who died in 1998.

At Thursday's meeting, the board heard a presentation on one of those projects – an award to the Ohio Organic Semiconductor Consortium – by Professors Robert Tweig (Kent State University), Arthur Epstein (Ohio State University) and Kenneth Singer (Case Western Reserve University), Keith Johanns (associate vice president, BTG), and Gary Min (DuPont iTechnologies).

The Hayes Award will help the consortium identify and create new types of plastic materials that can be used in electronics and optics, Epstein said.

“This will be an opportunity for students to gain skills, an opportunity for invention and entrepreneurship, and an opportunity for us to partner with existing companies in Ohio,” Epstein said.

Other presentations to the board included CCAD President Dennison W. Griffith and a briefing on the Wright Brothers Institute, by Dr. Vincent J. Russo (Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base).

The monthly meeting was held at the Columbus College of Art & Design, 107 N. Ninth St., Columbus, Ohio. CCAD, enrolling more than 1,600 students, is one of the largest and oldest private art colleges in the United States and is recognized as a leader in visual arts education and as a resource for artists and the central Ohio community.

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Hayes Investment Fund Awards

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Universities in the Consortium	Program	HIF Award
University of Akron , Cleveland State University, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Case Western Reserve University, Youngstown State University, Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, and Kent State University	Mass Spectrometry Consortium for Materials and Medical Research	\$1,870,000
Bowling Green State University , Case Western Reserve University, Medical College of Ohio, Ohio State University, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base	Ohio Consortium for Kinetic Spectrometry	\$1,300,000
Case Western Reserve University , Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Ohio State University, and University of Akron	Ohio Cellular and Molecular Imaging Consortium	\$2,000,000
University of Cincinnati , Ohio State University, and University of Dayton	Center for Nondestructive Characterization and Reliability Assurance of Micro- and Nano-Materials	\$500,000
University of Cincinnati , and Wright State University	A Genome Research Institute in Ohio	\$1,700,000
Kent State University , Case Western Reserve University, and Ohio State University	Ohio Organic Semiconductor Consortium	\$900,000
Ohio State University , Case Western Reserve University, Kent State University, Miami University, Ohio University, University of Akron, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Wright State University	Ohio NMR Consortium	\$2,000,000
Wright State University , Ohio State University, and Air Force Institute of Technology	Ohio Research in Advanced Internet Utilization, Simulation, and Telerobotics	\$800,000
Wright State University , Kent State University, Ohio State University, Miami University, and University of Cincinnati	Consortium for Environmental and Process Technologies	\$950,000