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REGENTS APPROVE TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Nearly \$2.5 million in technology grants were awarded to public colleges and universities at the July 2003 meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents.

The Board approved the distribution of 2003 Technology Initiative Grants, a capital program funded by the Ohio General Assembly to help universities and colleges collaboratively address the challenges created by the increasing need to use technology. The intent of the program is to support collaborative initiatives to improve the quality and efficiency of instruction, services and program offerings at Ohio's state-assisted colleges and universities.

Five awards were made, ranging from \$216,654 to \$1.03 million, to groups involving 15 colleges and universities and five higher education-related organizations. In each case, the results of each project will be infrastructure or knowledge that can be used by a larger number of institutions than those directly involved in the grant.

The grants will be used to:

- Reduce the burden of transferring data to the Higher Education Information system for Ohio colleges and universities using the SCT Banner administrative computing system;
- Create a central shared storage facility that can be used by institutions to backup critical administrative data files;
- Help universities with mainframe computers build a shared method of disaster recovery in the event of a computer failure;
- Develop and extend mathematics courseware that can be shared by the K-16 community and used for K-12 instruction, teacher professional development, and remedial college instruction; and
- Help colleges and universities to prepare their networks to connect to the Third Frontier Network by measuring the impact of Third Frontier Network applications on network hardware and architectures.

The categories and review of proposals was conducted by a statewide advisory committee. The review of proposals was based on specific criteria and on whether they address service and instruction needs of the state in three areas: preparation of college and university networks to connect to the Third Frontier Network; shared administrative computer services; and mathematics courseware to support K-12 education, college remediation, and teacher professional development.

The Ohio Board of Regents is the coordinating body for higher education in the state. Created in 1963 by the General Assembly, the 11-member public board has a direct, non-governing relationship with all of Ohio's colleges and universities.

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