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**FALL ENROLLMENT AT OHIO'S PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
HOLDS STEADY FROM LAST YEAR**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio's public colleges and universities reported a total headcount enrollment of 457,333 students this fall, an increase of 52 additional students (0.01 percent) over last fall, the Ohio Board of Regents reported today.

This year is the seventh consecutive year that enrollment has increased at Ohio's public colleges and universities. The Fall 2003 headcount saw an increase of 8,168 students (1.8 percent) over Fall 2002. The Fall 2002 headcount reported an increase of 15,872 (3.5 percent), and the Fall 2001 headcount reported an increase of 14,597 (3.7 percent).

"We are pleased to see Ohioans continue to see the need for pursuing higher education, despite the improving economy," said Roderick G. W. Chu, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. "We understand that a recovering economy and an escalating tuition burden due to low state support explain some of the slowing trend. However, we still are very concerned, because for Ohio to compete successfully with the leading states and nations of the 21st century knowledge economy, we must strive for universal postsecondary education of our citizenry, continuing throughout our lives."

The increases this year occurred in the two-year sector of community and technical colleges. This is partly due to the fact that enrollments are capped at five four-year universities – Ohio State, Bowling Green, Miami, Kent State and Ohio University.

University main campuses lost 358 students (-0.1 percent) over last fall and university branch campuses dropped 1,148 students (-2.7 percent). Community college campuses grew 628 students (0.5 percent), while technical colleges added 930 students (3.5 percent).

Ohio's public campuses have added a total of 38,689 additional students over the last four years. This four-year increase represents the equivalent of adding the enrollment of more than two Bowling Green State Universities (18,989) to the public campuses.

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FALL ENROLLMENTS/2

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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Editor's Notes: A spreadsheet of data on Preliminary Headcounts at Ohio Public Colleges and Universities, Fall 2003 and 2004 is attached.

Preliminary headcount data usually are lower than final headcounts, which are provided to the Ohio Board of Regents' Higher Education Information division after campuses have had more time to review and clarify their data. For example, some students may be registered but not officially in the system – and that won't be discovered many times until the end of the fall term.

Headcount enrollments are not necessarily reliable predictors of changes in full-time equivalency enrollments. For a variety of reasons, students may take more or fewer credit hours, and the count of full-time equivalent students is based upon the number of credit hours students take.

HEADCOUNTS AT PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, 2003 - 2004

	Preliminary Fall 2004 <u>Headcount</u>	Preliminary Fall 2003 <u>Headcount</u>	Percent of Change <u>2003-2004</u>
University Main Campuses			
Akron	21,592	22,409	-3.6%
Bowling Green	18,989	18,534	2.5%
Central	1,820	1,621	12.3%
Cincinnati	27,178	26,817	1.3%
Cleveland	16,292	16,905	-3.6%
Kent ²	24,011	23,470	2.3%
MCOT	1,145	1,048	9.3%
Miami	16,307	16,488	-1.1%
NEOUCOM	432	430	0.5%
Ohio State	50,995	50,731	0.5%
Ohio University	20,242	20,433	-0.9%
Shawnee	3,798	3,693	2.8%
Toledo	19,480	20,594	-5.4%
Wright	15,985	15,694	1.9%
Youngstown	13,101	12,858	1.9%
Total	251,367	251,725	-0.1%
University Branch Campuses			
Ashtabula--KSU	1,429	1,371	4.2%
Chillicothe--OU	1,824	1,829	-0.3%
Clermont--UC	2,765	2,659	4.0%
E. Liverpool--KSU	701	724	-3.2%
Eastern--OU	839	970	-13.5%
Firelands--BG	1,986	1,827	8.7%
Geauga--KSU	701	841	-16.6%
Hamilton--MU	2,582	2,545	1.5%
Lake--WSU	995	1,061	-6.2%
Lancaster--OU	1,464	1,514	-3.3%
Lima--OSU	1,281	1,338	-4.3%
Mansfield--OSU	1,634	1,640	-0.4%
Marion--OSU	1,521	1,567	-2.9%
Middletown--MU	2,014	2,128	-5.4%
Newark--OSU	2,143	2,148	-0.2%
Salem--KSU	1,185	1,204	-1.6%
Southern--OU	1,773	1,985	-10.7%
Stark--KSU	3,623	3,780	-4.2%
Trumbull--KSU	1,994	2,132	-6.5%
Tuscarawas--KSU	1,814	1,911	-5.1%
Walters--UC	4,421	4,347	1.7%
Wayne--UA	1,691	1,926	-12.2%
Zanesville--OU	1,706	1,787	-4.5%
Total	42,086	43,234	-2.7%

