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**\$2.25M GRANT SIGNALS CONTINUING FEDERAL COMMITMENT  
TO OHIO'S THIRD FRONTIER NETWORK INITIATIVES**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Just days before the official “lighting” of Ohio’s Third Frontier Network, federal legislators signaled their continuing commitment to supporting the nation’s most advanced statewide education and economic development network by providing an additional \$2.25 million.

The fiscal year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act, approved by Congress and expected to be signed into law by President Bush, directs the funds to support initiatives over the network that will advance science education, medical collaboration and online sharing of expensive scientific equipment. This grant follows \$5.1 million in initial federal funding provided in February.

“The TFN will link colleges, universities, federal labs and commercial research partners to spur economic growth and job creation throughout Ohio,” Governor Bob Taft said. “The Ohio Board of Regents and our entire Ohio Congressional delegation, led by Rep. Ralph Regula, deserve our thanks for supporting this important initiative and helping to make our state a national leader in using advanced broadband networking.”

“The continued interest and support of the Ohio Congressional delegation allows Ohio to ‘leapfrog’ to a position of national leadership in educational discovery and delivery,” said Roderick G. W. Chu, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. “The knowledge economy demands that the state have an increasingly better educated citizenry and be a leader in the commercialization of innovation. The TFN will allow us to move ahead in these areas and toward a more prosperous Ohio.”

The bill provides \$1.5 million in funding for the network through the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Education.

“I am pleased to have played a key role in supporting the creation of the network and in advancing leading-edge initiatives that will improve medical care, promote education and improve the lives of thousands of Ohioans,” said Regula, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

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## FUNDING FOR NETWORK INITIATIVES/2

The Health and Human Services funding will, among other things, connect the state's academic medical centers with Ohio's children's hospitals and select community hospitals. The connection will enhance the ability of physicians to communicate over high-quality television and Internet connections, improve access to specialists in underserved areas and enable collaborative educational and research efforts.

The Education funding will, as one of its core activities, create a science education network on the Third Frontier Network. Students using this network will be able to see and use the latest scientific instruments and interact with college and university faculty and industrial researchers as they solve leading edge problems. This kind of active learning will encourage student interest in science and technology. As a result, it will also enhance the nation's security by providing for a broader pool of citizens who are able to advance and apply knowledge.

In addition to supporting the medical and science education networks, federal funding will provide equipment and fiber needed to connect additional institutions to the Third Frontier Network.

The Third Frontier Network is scheduled to be officially "lighted" Nov. 30 by Gov. Taft and Al Frink, assistant secretary for manufacturing and services of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The network's 1,600-mile backbone was secured in 2003 through the State of Ohio's purchase of unused fiber optic cable from private telecommunications carriers. The network is being built and administered by OARnet, Ohio's Internet service provider, through more than \$12.5 million in state funding.

The Ohio Board of Regents is the coordinating body for higher education in the State of Ohio. 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. OARnet is a division of the Ohio Supercomputer Center, a technology initiative of the Ohio Board of Regents.

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**Editor's Note:** The official "lighting" of Ohio's Third Frontier Network will take place Nov. 30 at The Blackwell Inn at Ohio State University. For more information on the TFN and the "lighting," please visit: [www.tfn.oar.net](http://www.tfn.oar.net) .