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**GOVERNOR TAFT, OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS
PRESENT OHIO EMINENT SCHOLAR AWARD
TO CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY**

CLEVELAND, Ohio – The Ohio Board of Regents yesterday (July 15) presented an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program award in to Case Western Reserve University officials.

Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Roderick G. W. Chu presented the \$731,250 award in regenerative medicine to John L. Anderson, Case provost and vice president.

The Regents' Ohio Eminent Scholar program is fully aligned with Governor Bob Taft's \$1.1 billion Third Frontier job creation program to expand Ohio's high-tech research capabilities and promote start-up companies to create high-paying jobs.

"The Wright Center of Innovation at Case Western Reserve University has positioned itself at the forefront of research into regenerative medicine," said Taft. "This research holds great promise for the future of medical care, especially in the repair of spinal cord injuries and heart disease."

"Under the leadership of Dr. Stanton Gerson, the Wright Center at Case Western Reserve University has taken regenerative medicine innovations into clinical trials and has expanded its collaborative influence to many universities across Ohio, as well as the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals," said Chancellor Chu.

The Eminent Scholar award will fund the recruitment of a new senior scholar in regenerative medicine research. Case, under the guidelines of the program, must match the award. The combined endowment is maintained in perpetuity to cover the expenses of the position.

"This award is a great honor and offers an enormous opportunity," said John L. Anderson, Case provost and university vice president. "Research in regenerative medicine represents profound promise for Ohio's biomedical and biotechnical industry. The award will allow Case and its research partners to build on the increasing momentum of efforts surrounding such diseases as Parkinson's and

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Alzheimer's, as well as spinal cord injuries, stroke, diabetes and heart disease. Today represents the further strengthening of the relationship between the State of Ohio and Case in this important research area.”

The Eminent Scholar review panel, convened by the National Academy of Sciences, cited the center's 27 participating researchers as “an impressive group, based on the individual records of publications, funded grants, professional activities and honors.”

An Ohio Eminent Scholar is an individual acknowledged as a scholar of distinction by national measures. As such, she or he should have a continuously distinguished record of research and scholarly achievement. Moreover, an Ohio Eminent Scholar not only generates and disseminates knowledge, but has, and continues to be, engaged in the education and training of other scholars.

The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program was created by the Ohio General Assembly and is administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. The program focuses on already outstanding academic endeavors that, through the leadership of an Ohio Eminent Scholar, will gain increased national visibility while providing direct support for the research and commercialization focus of a Wright Center of Innovation.

Wright Centers of Innovation are programs funded by Third Frontier Project grants that support large-scale, world-class research and technology development designed to accelerate the pace of commercialization in Ohio. Case also has another Ohio Eminent Scholar. Thomas A. Zawodzinski Jr., the F. Alex Nason Professor of Engineering and the Ohio Eminent Scholar for Fuel Cell Research at the Case School of Engineering, was appointed in 2002.

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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About Case Western Reserve University

Case is among the nation's leading research institutions. Founded in 1826 and shaped by the unique merger of the Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University, Case is distinguished by its strengths in education, research, service, and experiential learning. Located in Cleveland, Case offers nationally recognized programs in the Arts and Sciences, Dental Medicine, Engineering, Law, Management, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Sciences. The Commission on Presidential Debates selected Case to host the U.S. vice presidential debate on October 5, 2004. <http://www.case.edu>.