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FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE – 10 a.m., Oct. 19, 2006

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**FALL ENROLLMENT INCREASES TO NEAR-RECORD LEVELS
AT OHIO'S PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

OXFORD, Ohio – Ohio's public colleges and universities this fall reported the second-highest all-time headcount enrollment level, the Ohio Board of Regents announced today at its monthly meeting.

The preliminary headcount enrollment of 457,322 students for the fall 2006 term represents a slight increase of 1,536 students (0.3 percent) over last fall. That increase mirrors the 0.3 percent decrease reported for fall 2005 from the previous year. The highest headcount enrollment mark was reported in fall 2004, at 457,333 students.

The enrollment data demonstrate that the spike in enrollments that occurred with the onset of the recession of 2001 has reached a plateau sustained since 2002. Following previous economic recessions, enrollments tended to decrease after one to two years of growth at the outset of the economic slump. That past pattern has not yet occurred in this current cycle.

"We believe that improvements in access and outreach efforts also contributed to these sustained enrollment levels," said Garrison Walters, interim chancellor of the Board of Regents. "Individual campuses, statewide organizations such as the Ohio College Access Network and federally sponsored programs such as GEAR UP all help raise the awareness of the need and availability of higher education. These programs provide information about financial aid and other resources to help students aspire to, enroll in and succeed in college. Increases in state grant aid have also helped make college more affordable to low-income students."

There are few distinctive enrollment trend patterns by sector. The university main campus and technical college headcount enrollments are up, while headcount enrollments among the regional campuses and community colleges are down slightly.

University main campuses reported a 0.8 percent enrollment growth, an increase of 1,986 students. Growing campuses included: University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, Shawnee State University, University of Toledo and Youngstown State University. University branch campuses reported a 0.9 percent drop in students, a decrease of 392 students.

Community college campuses reported a 1.0 percent drop in students, a decrease of 1,334 students, while technical college campuses reported a 4.6 percent enrollment growth, an increase of 1,276 students.

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Enrollment at Ohio's independent, nonprofit colleges and universities has increased for the 21st consecutive year. The preliminary total headcount for fall 2006, including full- and part-time students earning undergraduate through professional degrees, is 132,139. This is an increase of 562 students or 0.4 percent over fall 2005, according to a recent survey conducted by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio.

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, 2005-2006 is attached.*

Preliminary headcount data usually are lower than final headcounts, which are provided to the 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 (FTE) enrollments. For a variety of reasons, students may take more or fewer credit hours, and the count of FTE students is based upon the number of credit hours students take.

PRELIMINARY HEADCOUNTS AT OHIO PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES, 2005 - 2006

	Preliminary Headcount Fall 2006	Preliminary Headcount Fall 2005	Percent of Change 2005 - 2006	Difference in Headcount 2005 - 2006
University Main Campuses				
Akron	21,882	21,049	4.0%	833
Bowling Green	19,108	19,016	0.5%	92
Central	1,766	1,623	8.8%	143
Cincinnati	28,327	27,932	1.4%	395
Cleveland	15,471	15,754	-1.8%	-283
Kent	22,317	23,250	-4.0%	-933
Miami	15,726	16,019	-1.8%	-293
NEOUCOM	454	461	-1.5%	-7
Ohio State	51,818	50,504	2.6%	1,314
Ohio University ¹	20,408	20,293	0.6%	115
Shawnee	3,889	3,820	1.8%	69
Toledo ²	19,374	19,201	0.9%	173
MCOT ²	1,351	1,240	9.0%	111
Wright	16,093	16,207	-0.7%	-114
Youngstown	13,183	12,812	2.9%	371
<i>Total</i>	251,167	249,181	0.8%	1,986

University Branch Campuses				
Wayne--UA	1,657	1,587	4.4%	70
Firelands--BG	2,024	2,055	-1.5%	-31
Clermont--UC	2,789	2,815	-0.9%	-26
Walters--UC	4,411	4,497	-1.9%	-86
Ashtabula--KSU	1,462	1,484	-1.5%	-22
E. Liverpool--KSU	727	746	-2.5%	-19
Geauga--KSU	824	721	14.3%	103
Salem--KSU	1,126	1,133	-0.6%	-7
Stark--KSU	3,473	3,447	0.8%	26
Trumbull--KSU	1,813	1,890	-4.1%	-77
Tuscarawas--KSU	1,888	1,820	3.7%	68
Hamilton--MU	2,492	2,372	5.1%	120
Middletown--MU	1,908	1,870	2.0%	38
Lima--OSU	1,214	1,145	6.0%	69
Mansfield--OSU	1,464	1,610	-9.1%	-146
Marion--OSU	1,538	1,485	3.6%	53
Newark--OSU	2,310	2,183	5.8%	127
Chillicothe--OU ¹	1,665	1,831	-9.1%	-166
Eastern--OU ¹	679	801	-15.2%	-122
Lancaster--OU ¹	1,478	1,494	-1.1%	-16
Southern--OU ¹	1,761	1,792	-1.7%	-31
Zanesville--OU ¹	1,478	1,749	-15.5%	-271
Lake--WSU	864	910	-5.1%	-46
<i>Total</i>	41,045	41,437	-0.9%	-392

	Preliminary Headcount Fall 2006	Preliminary Headcount Fall 2005	Percent of Change 2005 - 2006	Difference in Headcount 2005 - 2006
Community Colleges				
Cincinnati State	8,277	8,470	-2.3%	-193
Clark State	3,339	3,472	-3.8%	-133
Columbus State	22,495	21,788	3.2%	707
Cuyahoga	24,796	25,358	-2.2%	-562
Edison State	3,066	3,095	-0.9%	-29
Jefferson	1,598	1,692	-5.6%	-94
Lakeland	8,491	8,272	2.6%	219
Lorain County	10,659	10,346	3.0%	313
Northwest State	2,778	3,075	-9.7%	-297
Owens State--Findlay	2,782	2,808	-0.9%	-26
Owens State--Toledo	16,364	17,598	-7.0%	-1,234
Rio Grande	1,535	1,589	-3.4%	-54
Sinclair	22,786	22,555	1.0%	231
Southern State	2,361	2,307	2.3%	54
Terra State	2,277	2,475	-8.0%	-198
Washington State	2,279	2,317	-1.6%	-38
<i>Total</i>	135,883	137,217	-1.0%	-1,334
Technical Colleges				
Agricultural Technical - OSU	747	821	-9.0%	-74
Belmont	1,705	1,601	6.5%	104
Central Ohio	3,064	3,023	1.4%	41
Hocking	5,524	5,330	3.6%	194
James A. Rhodes	3,369	3,058	10.2%	311
Marion	2,038	2,102	-3.0%	-64
Zane State ³	1,927	1,886	2.2%	41
North Central	3,193	3,130	2.0%	63
Stark	7,660	7,000	9.4%	660
<i>Total</i>	29,227	27,951	4.6%	1,276
TOTAL--ALL INSTITUTIONS	457,322	455,786	0.3%	1,536

Criteria for Data Collection:

- > Unduplicated headcount
- > Students in degree credit courses only
- > As of the 15th day of classes
- > If a student attends multiple campuses of one college or university, one campus is selected based on preponderant enrollment

¹ Decline at Ohio University branch campuses partially due to a new policy of attributing all graduate students to the Athens campus as of Summer 2006.

² University of Toledo and Medical University of Ohio merged on July 1, 2006

³ Muskingum Technical College is now Zane State