

NEWS RELEASE**Governor Bob Taft**

**TAFT ANNOUNCES INNOVATION INCENTIVE FUNDING
Program to focus university research and stimulate economic growth**

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO (September 21, 2006) - Governor Bob Taft today announced nearly \$4.7 million in FY 2007 Innovation Incentive awards to Ohio's public and private research universities to assist them in refocusing their doctoral programs to generate world-class research and stimulate economic growth.

"The Innovation Incentive program pushes Ohio's university researchers to continue making the important discoveries that lead to new products and create good jobs," said Taft from the campus of Bowling Green State University. "This initiative, along with the state's Third Frontier investments, provides the support necessary for Ohio to continue its international legacy of leadership in innovation."

An Innovation Incentive funding program was a specific recommendation of Governor Taft's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy. The commission's April 2004 report stated, "Successful innovation - the continuous process of generating and applying new ideas to the creation and upgrading of products, processes, and services - is a significant ingredient of long-term economic growth. It relies on highly skilled workers who can invent new products and processes, staff essential production systems, maintain complex equipment, and use new technologies in their own organizations."

Under the Innovation Incentive program, participating universities each year will reallocate 1.5 percent of the state funding they receive for doctoral enrollments into areas of focused research. By the end of the ten-year program, the universities will have reallocated at least 15 percent of their doctoral funding into these specific areas. Innovation Incentive funds are awarded to the competing universities, based upon their doctoral enrollment and levels of external research funding.

For FY 2007, Ohio's research colleges and universities have reallocated \$4,723,801 in doctoral funding to qualify for \$4,686,194 in Ohio Innovation Incentive funding. In the first two years, awards and reallocations have a combined total of more than \$14 million.

The Innovation Incentive program is one element of the state's Economic Growth Challenge, which also includes the Research Incentive and Technology Commercialization Incentive Programs. The Innovation Incentive program has four primary objectives:

- Achieve enhanced program focus through effective doctoral program reallocation investments;
- Attract preeminent researchers and build world-class research capacity;
- Create new products and services to be commercialized, leading to job creation and economic growth in Ohio and in all the regions of the state; and
- Complement funding provided from programs included in Ohio's Third Frontier Project.

Governor Taft was instrumental in creating and advocating for the Innovation Incentive program as a follow-up to the state's \$1.6 billion Third Frontier high-tech research commercialization initiative. In recent years, Ohio research has focused on several areas of core economic strength and opportunity, including: advanced materials; biosciences; information technology; instruments, controls, electronics;

advanced manufacturing; and power and propulsion.

The ten public universities involved in the Innovation Incentive Initiative program are: University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, University of Cincinnati, Cleveland State University, Kent State University, Miami University, The Ohio State University, Ohio University, University of Toledo and Wright State University. The private universities involved are: Case Western Reserve University and University of Dayton.

Innovation Incentive Program Awards and Reallocations

Campus	Type	FY2006 awards	FY2007 awards	Total 2-yr awards	*FY2006 reallocations	*FY2007 reallocations	*Total 2 reallocations
UA	Public	\$99,816	\$189,088	\$288,904	\$128,487	\$256,975	\$385,462
BGSU	Public	\$75,799	\$156,987	\$232,786	\$115,733	\$231,466	\$347,200
WRU	Private	\$240,519	\$442,611	\$683,130	\$289,805	\$579,610	\$869,415
UC	Public	\$407,113	\$795,247	\$1,202,360	\$381,919	\$763,839	\$1,145,758
OSU	Public	\$36,435	\$66,778	\$103,213	\$29,051	\$58,103	\$87,154
UD	Private	\$44,753	\$77,557	\$122,310	\$44,640	\$89,280	\$133,920
MSU	Public	\$119,615	\$242,511	\$362,126	\$169,584	\$339,169	\$508,753
OU	Public	\$56,820	\$117,155	\$173,975	\$73,927	\$147,855	\$221,782
TOU	Public	\$948,486	\$1,946,879	\$2,895,365	\$857,842	\$1,715,685	\$2,573,527
OTU	Public	\$122,310	\$251,414	\$373,724	\$143,604	\$287,207	\$430,811
UT	Public	\$110,828	\$242,042	\$352,870	\$69,912	\$139,825	\$209,737
VSU	Public	\$80,603	\$157,925	\$238,528	\$57,394	\$114,788	\$172,182
TOTAL=		\$2,343,097	\$4,686,194	\$7,029,291	\$2,361,898	\$4,723,802	\$7,085,700

*Indicates minimum reallocations made by campuses. Actual amounts may be higher.

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