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REPORT CITES OHIO HIGHER EDUCATION SAVINGS OF \$3 MILLION

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Ohio colleges and universities, K-12 school districts and state and local governments saved more than \$3.1 million in 2004-05 through the state's membership in the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, according to a recent report from the nonprofit organization that fosters interstate cooperation and resource sharing.

The MHEC report, "Responding to Constituents' Needs in a Changing Culture," cites 2004-05 savings for Ohio's public and private campuses, school districts and state and local governments, obtained through the compact's computing hardware (\$1,411,894), computing software (\$241,206), office products (\$92,300) and communications services programs (\$1,405,700). The report also cites total cumulative savings of \$29.3 million for Ohio during the ten-year period prior to FY 2005.

Savings from MHEC were not included in March 2005 productivity report issued by the Ohio Board of Regents that documented more than \$300 million in cost savings by Ohio's colleges and universities over the previous few years.

"The MHEC report is just one more example of the collaborative efforts underway to reduce costs," said Regents Chairman Edmund J. Adams. "Ohio's collaboration with the 11 other member MHEC states helps all member states leverage their buying power. And we can extend the benefits to all of state and local government."

"Ohio's getting a great return on our investment in our MHEC membership," added Chancellor Roderick G. W. Chu. "The Regents pay MHEC dues of only \$90,000. With \$3.1 million in annual savings, Ohio is getting a 34-1 return."

The report also features sections on policy and data trends and is available on the internet at: http://www.mhec.org/statespages/states_ohio.html.

The 11-member MHEC compact is governed by a commission consisting of five appointees from each state. Ohio's commissioners are: Executive Director Dorothy Baunach of NorTech; State Senator Kevin Coughlin; Senior Advisor William Napier of Cleveland State University; President Emeritus David Ponitz of Sinclair Community College and State Representative Shawn Webster. Chancellor Roderick Chu of the Ohio Board of Regents and Sally Perz of The Capitol Link serve as alternates.

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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