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Contact: Bret Crow, Assistant Director of Communications  
Office: 614-752-9480, cell: 614-769-4779, email: [bcrow@regents.state.oh.us](mailto:bcrow@regents.state.oh.us)

**STATEMENT ON E. GORDON GEE'S RETURN AS OHIO STATE PRESIDENT**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut released the following statement on E. Gordon Gee's hiring as president of The Ohio State University:

“While the official action of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees does not occur until later this afternoon, it is not too soon to express my great pleasure and strong support of the impending appointment of E. Gordon Gee as president of The Ohio State University. President Gee has a unique opportunity to return to a school that he previously led with distinction, but one that has also advanced measurably during the tenures of his successors, President Kirwan and President Holbrook. He therefore has the opportunity to lead us to even greater heights of accomplishment.

“President Gee's return to Ohio comes at a critical time for higher education in our state. Governor Ted Strickland, Speaker Jon Husted, Senate President Bill Harris and all the members of the Ohio General Assembly have committed themselves to making higher education the driver of Ohio's economic resurgence in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As Chancellor, I'm committed to fulfilling the vision of our elected leaders by building a world class system of higher education that prepares all of our citizens for success and attracts talent from around the world to our doorsteps. Having a president with the experience, talent, and international stature of Gordon Gee at the helm of Ohio's flagship public research university will be an important springboard for helping us accomplish our goals.”

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