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GARRISON WALTERS, INTERIM CHANCELLOR

***MEDIA ADVISORY*** – ***March 15, 2007***

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**REGENTS APPOINT NEW CHANCELLOR AT SPECIAL MEETING**

***COLUMBUS, Ohio*** – The Ohio Board of Regents appointed Eric D. Fingerhut as the seventh Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents at a special meeting March 14.

Fingerhut served as Ohio State Senator in 1991-92 and from 1999 to 2006 and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1993. He has taught at Baldwin-Wallace College and Case Western Reserve University, and was a staff attorney in The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and an associate with Hahn, Loeser and Parks in Cleveland.

"The officers of the Board of Regents have met with Eric and have been very impressed with his intellect, his energy, his passion for higher education and his ability to build strong relationships," said Donna M. Alvarado, Granville businesswoman and chair of the Board. "Bringing Eric on board at this time will engage him fully in the budget process and enable us to begin in earnest the discussions that need to take place for meaningful change in Ohio higher education."

Chancellor Fingerhut is expected to work closely with the Governor and his Cabinet – as previous chancellors have.

"I am deeply honored by the confidence that has been shown in me by the members of the Board of Regents, Governor Strickland and the leaders of the Ohio General Assembly," said Fingerhut, who currently lives in Shaker Heights. "The future of our great state depends on the talent and innovative ideas that come out of our institutions of higher education. I am committed to providing the aggressive leadership necessary to help make Ohio a global leader in the field of higher education."

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The Ohio Board of Regents is a geographically representative 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.