



OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS

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MEDIA ADVISORY – Jan. 11, 2007

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STATEMENT FROM THE OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS Donna M. Alvarado, Chair

COLUMBUS, Ohio – We appreciate the concerns expressed by Governor Ted Strickland and Speaker Jon Husted and support their desire to better connect higher education to the needs of the state. However, we also believe an independent, nonpartisan Ohio Board of Regents has served, and will continue to serve, the state in an effective manner.

The Board of Regents has a 40-year track record of working in concert with the governor, Senate, House and the business, higher education and K-12 communities to shape coherent state policies to benefit the citizens of Ohio that are responsive to and consistent with those of the state's political leadership.

At the invitation of previous governors, our agency has been asked to the table to offer counsel and guidance at a Cabinet level. Given the coordinating role we play with our higher education partners, this arrangement has proven successful in advancing the goals and objectives of past administrations. We look forward to continuing to advance the cause of better educating more students through similar productive relationships with the new administration.

With the uncertainty now created over the future nature of the position, the Board has decided to postpone its current search for a new Chancellor. It would not be possible to continue now with a process that was scheduled to culminate next week with on-site interviews of six finalist candidates.

The Board wishes to recognize the six persons who had advanced to the final stage. The field included three who currently serve as chief executives of statewide lay higher education boards in other states. The Ohio position had attracted a strong applicant pool in good part because of the national reputation and independent standing of the position and the agency.

Both the members and staff of the Ohio Board of Regents stand ready to provide input to the legislative process as this issue moves forward.

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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.