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STATEMENT TO THE PRESS – January 4, 2008

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Chancellor Fingerhut Statement on Northeast Ohio Universities Study Commission Report

COLUMBUS --- “The report and recommendations put forward by The Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission are an important first step for University System of Ohio colleges and universities in the region.

“The fact that the commission has recommended its public higher education institutions collaborate more, compete with each other less, establish centers of excellence, and pool resources to save money---among other recommendations---shows that the conversation on higher education and the economy has fundamentally changed in the region and state.

“I thank Commission Chairman Ted Boyd, academic and administrative workgroup chairs Jane Murphy Timken and Philip Kaufmann, the 16 additional commission participants, including Northeast Ohio college and university presidents Dr. Michael Schwartz (Cleveland State University), Dr. Lester Lefton (Kent State University), Dr. Lois Nora (Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine), Dr. Luis Proenza (University of Akron), and Dr. David Sweet (Youngstown State University), and all those who helped support the work of the commission during the year-long study.

“I look forward to further examining the commission’s report as we develop the 10-year master plan for higher education due to Governor Strickland and the Ohio General Assembly in March.”

The report is located at <http://www.neostudycommission.org/FinalReport.htm>.

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