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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 17, 2005

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**OHIO LEADS NATIONAL EFFORT
TO IMPROVE MATH AND READING**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – With a \$15 million federal grant, the Ohio Board of Regents will lead a five-year national investigation into improving middle school students' reading and math scores by using technology.

The Middle school Achievement through Technology-Rich Interventions (MATRIX) project will use games and other learning resources accessed through iPods, PDAs, video cameras and other mobile technologies to engage and excite students about reading and math. The project focuses on urban and rural schools in Ohio, California, Kansas and New Mexico that are not meeting their annual yearly progress scores for at least two years as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

“Without the tools necessary to improve reading and math skills, students face an up-hill battle to succeed academically and later in life,” said Roderick G. W. Chu, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. “This project presents an innovative way to help students learn on their own terms, using every-day technology with which they are so familiar.”

Twelve sites across the four states will participate and have access to professional development for teachers, after-school programs and a parent involvement guide. Participating school districts in Ohio include Columbus, Lima and those in the rural southeastern part of the state.

State partners will create and share handheld curriculum units and games with different states focusing on different targeted content areas. Ohio will create units about geometry and spatial relationships and data and probability that focus on real-world issues and problems. Ohio will also form teams of middle school teachers, students and college faculty that will create PDA units to collect and analyze existing data, identify trends and conjecture about future scenarios.

In addition to the Regents, Ohio's project partners include the Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science and Reading, Instructional Technology Services of Central Ohio Inc., faculty experts in mobile technologies at the University of Akron and Ohio University, the Governor's Laptop Initiative and the YES Learning and Computer Center.

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