



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

To: Interested Parties

Fr: Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut

Date: December 19, 2008

Re: Statement Regarding the December 2008 Budget Announcement

Today Governor Strickland announced \$640 million in budget cuts for the State of Ohio, while again protecting the record funding that enabled the two-year tuition freeze and increase in student financial aid. We know the difficult times in which we are operating, and today's announcement comes as no surprise. But never in Ohio's history has a governor shown the commitment to higher education that we are seeing today.

The Board of Regents and the University System of Ohio are more determined than ever to grow our economy. We will find more efficient ways of doing business so taxpayer dollars stretch further. We will create even more affordable pathways for Ohioans to get an education, and our colleges and universities will be centers of excellence that attract talent from around the world and make Ohio a leader in the next century's industries.

Higher education has a plan to drive economic growth through the creation of a talented workforce, and together with the Ohio Department of Development's strategic plan, the State of Ohio has a plan that will allow Ohio to compete with the most advanced states and nations.

The Governor is steadfast in his commitment to higher education, and we are steadfast in our commitment to the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric D. Fingerhut".

Eric D. Fingerhut