

For Immediate Release – January 28, 2009

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Office: 614-752-9480, Cell: 614-633-5909, Email: mchaney@regents.state.oh.us**Chancellor's Statement on Governor Strickland's
2009 State of the State Address*****Hails historic tuition freeze and vision of integrated pre-school
through college education system***

Governor Strickland's State of the State Address today marks the third in a series of historic addresses impacting the future of higher education in Ohio.

In his first State of the State Address, Governor Strickland proposed the compact with higher education that led to record state support in exchange for a two-year tuition freeze. In his second State of the State Address, Governor Strickland previewed the 10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education* and began breaking down the barriers between K-12 and higher education through the *Seniors to Sophomores* early college credit program.

In today's 2009 State of the State address, the Governor described a vision of a unified, integrated system of education from pre-school through college that is student-centered and lifelong. This vision will serve as the framework in which we fulfill the promise of making sure all Ohioans aspire to go to college and are ready to succeed when they do.

Finally, the Governor made another unprecedented and historic commitment to affordability, by committing sufficient funds to freeze tuition at all public universities and community colleges for a third straight year, and at community colleges and regional campuses – the fastest growing part of the University System of Ohio – for a fourth year as well. By the end of fiscal year 2011, Ohio will have held tuition growth to the lowest rate for a four-year period since before 1970.

Governor Strickland has again challenged us to reach greater heights. And as we have done each time in the past, Ohio's leaders of higher education will meet and exceed the Governor's expectations. We thank him for his commitment to higher education, and deeply respect his clear understanding that the future prosperity of the state depends on a world-class education system. That is what we will deliver.