



Directive to the Board of Regents

August 2, 2007

Establishing the University System of Ohio

1. **Ohio Has a Great Higher Education Tradition.** The State of Ohio currently supports thirteen public universities, twenty-three public two-year colleges, and numerous adult career centers. The state's biennial budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 increases funding for these schools, providing funds which will, among other things, enable them to freeze tuition for two years. For these schools to best serve the needs of all Ohioans, it is imperative that these funding increases be matched by increases in quality, productivity and sustained improvements in affordability.
2. **Collaborative Efforts will Improve Higher Education in Ohio.** The best state systems of public higher education across the nation are more than just a collection of institutions. They work together in a rational, coherent way that creates sums worth well more than the individual institutions themselves. The power of unifying resources and making sure each maximizes its potential allows the best public university systems to shine in seas of mediocrity. We need to build such a system here in Ohio.
3. **Establishing "The University System of Ohio".** In order to realize the benefits of collaborative and coordinated activity between Ohio's institutions of higher education, I direct the Chancellor of the Board of Regents to refer to those institutions, collectively, as The University System of Ohio. Further, I direct the Chancellor to manage the state's investments in higher education to build The University System of Ohio so that it ensures affordable, high quality higher education opportunities for all Ohioans.

4. **Planning for the Future.** In order to maximize the quality and affordability of higher education for all Ohioans, I further direct the Chancellor to prepare a ten-year plan for The University System of Ohio that sets clear goals for the System and provides a timeline for accomplishing those goals.



Ted Strickland, Governor