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Governor Announces Ohio's Centers of Excellence in Biomedicine and Health Care at 14 Universities

Centers support state's work in creating and growing technology-based companies in the biomedical and health care field

Cleveland, OH — Governor Ted Strickland, together with Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut, today announced Ohio's Centers of Excellence in Biomedicine and Health Care at a press conference at BioEnterprise, a Cleveland-based organization designed to grow health care companies and commercialize bioscience technologies.

The Centers at 14 universities throughout the state are committed to focusing their academic and research activities on biomedical and health care to create jobs in Ohio and further strengthen Ohio's international reputation as a leader in bioscience research and development. Ohio is already home to 775 bioscience-related companies, including the headquarters to two Fortune 500 companies – Cardinal Health and Procter & Gamble.

“Aligning Ohio universities with Ohio's growing biomedical and health care industries will generate economic growth and new, hard-to-outsource jobs,” Strickland said. “Biomedicine and Health Care in Ohio create high wage jobs, investments in facilities, research and development, and production. But much more than that, these industries bring forth medical breakthroughs that benefit citizens of Ohio and citizens of the world.”

The Centers are located at the following universities:

- **The University of Akron/NEOUCOM:** *The Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron*
- **Bowling Green State University:** *Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan*
- **Case Western Reserve University:** *Translating Technology and Research into Better Health: Case Center for Imaging Research, National Center for Regenerative Medicine, Infectious Disease, and Case Comprehensive Cancer Center*

- **University of Cincinnati:** *Transforming Health care in the 21st Century: Neurosciences, Environmental Health and Cancer, Pediatrics, and Diabetes and Obesity*
- **Cleveland State University:** *Center for 21st Century Health Professionals and Researchers*
- **University of Dayton:** *Tissue Regeneration and Engineering*
- **Kent State University:** *Health of Individuals and Communities*
- **Miami University:** *Structural Biology and Metabonomics*
- **NEOUCOM:** *Institute for Neurobehavioral Health*
- **The Ohio State University:** *Health and Well Being, Human Behavior, and Bioinformatics*
- **Ohio University:** *Health and Wellness: From Translational Research to Best Practices for Rural/Underserved Populations*
- **The University of Toledo:** *Translational Health and Bioscience*
- **Wright State University:** *BioHealth Innovation: Wright State University & Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute, National Center for Medical Readiness, and Knowledge-Enabled and Human-Centered Computing*
- **Youngstown State University:** *Understanding Disease and Other Disorders: Applied Chemical Biology and Study of Autism*

The Centers of Excellence, as outlined in Ohio's 10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*, will position the University System of Ohio to be a magnet for talent and a leader in innovation and entrepreneurial activity by developing distinct missions for each institution that are recognized by students, faculty and business leaders, while eliminating unnecessary competition for resources, students and faculty within the state.

“The Biomedical and Health Care sectors are two of the fastest growing industries in the country,” said Chancellor Fingerhut. “Each Center of Excellence brings unique approaches that, together, will drive economic growth and establish Ohio as the national leader in biomedicine and health care.”

Ohio has already received high rankings in biomedicine and health care. In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 “America's Best Hospitals” list, 14 Ohio hospitals were ranked among the nation's top 220 hospitals in a variety of specialties, ranking Ohio among the top five states. Of those Ohio hospitals, the Cleveland Clinic's Heart Center was named the best in the nation for cardiac care -- a title it has held for 14 years in a row. Ohio's research medical centers either directly or indirectly employ 252,195 Ohioans, according to BioOhio, a non-profit organization designed to build and accelerate bioscience industry, research, and education in Ohio.

Today's announcement is the second of five announcements of university Centers of Excellence that align with the state's targeted industries and focus on talent recruitment. In October 2009, the governor and Chancellor Fingerhut announced [Ohio's nine Centers of Excellence in Advanced Energy](#) at eight of the state's

universities.

The first four categories are specific to Ohio's growth industries – advanced energy, biomedical and health care, transportation and logistics, and agriculture and food production. The fifth group is focused on attracting and retaining talent to the state through additional programs that are essential in building communities and attracting the best and brightest to Ohio.

For more information, see:

Ohio Centers of Excellence: www.uso.edu/centersofexcellence

10-year *Strategic Plan for Higher Education*: <http://uso.edu/strategicplan/>

Go here to learn more about Ohio's efforts to grow the biomedical and health care industries:

- <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Biomedical.aspx>
- <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Healthcare.aspx>