



## Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NOCHE Names Ann Womer Benjamin as Executive Director**

*Womer Benjamin to lead implementation of economic development organization's new strategic plan for business-higher education collaboration*

CLEVELAND – March 19, 2007 – The Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) announced today that Ann Womer Benjamin has been appointed Executive Director, effective April 16.

“Ann is a dynamic leader with vision, relevant and extensive experience, and a strong commitment to Northeast Ohio,” said Robert H. Rawson, Jr., NOCHE board chairman and partner-in-charge of the Cleveland office of the global law firm Jones Day. “She will provide strong leadership to NOCHE and help realize its mission to enhance business-higher education collaboration.”

Ms. Womer Benjamin most recently served as the director of the Ohio Department of Insurance, where she dealt with a variety of regulations and issues impacting businesses and individual citizens within the state. Additionally, she served eight years in the Ohio House of Representatives, providing leadership on numerous higher education, work force and economic development issues, and practiced law in Canton and Cleveland for 24 years.

“I am excited to serve NOCHE as we work to advance the interests of higher education in Ohio,” said Womer Benjamin. “NOCHE’s new strategic plan is a powerful tool aimed at achieving our vision—one where business and higher education work collaboratively to develop and deliver the talent, ideas and innovation necessary for a globally competitive regional and state economy.”

Dr. Roy Church, president of Lorain County Community College, led the NOCHE Search Committee. Dr. Carol A. Cartwright, President Emeritus, Kent State University, served as interim Executive Director and will continue to provide transitional support and counsel to Ms. Womer Benjamin and to NOCHE.

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#### **MEMBER INSTITUTIONS**

Ashland University / Baldwin-Wallace College / Case Western Reserve University / Cleveland Institute of Art / Cleveland Institute of Music / Cleveland State University / The College of Wooster / Cuyahoga Community College / Hiram College / John Carroll University / Kent State University / Lake Erie College / Lakeland Community College / Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies / Lorain County Community College / Malone College / Mount Union College / Myers University / Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine / Notre Dame College / Oberlin College / Stark State College of Technology / The University of Akron / Ursuline College / Walsh University / Youngstown State University

### **About the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE)**

NOCHE, [www.noche.org](http://www.noche.org), is the regional driver of business- higher education collaboration to achieve Northeast Ohio's economic competitive advantage. Its mission is to mobilize the region's business and higher education communities for collective action that advances regional economic development. NOCHE member institutions include 26 colleges and universities in 14 counties, representing 175,000 degree-seeking students. The organization's Board of Trustees consists of the presidents of the 26 member institutions, joined by an equal number of senior business leaders from throughout the region.

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