



The Ohio State University Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OHIO STATE GLBT ALUMNI APPLAUD UNIVERSITY FOR ADOPTION OF DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

COLUMBUS, OH--On behalf of thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender alumni of The Ohio State University, The OSU GLBT Alumni Society praises the University's recent decision to extend health benefits to same-sex domestic partners.

"We're absolutely thrilled," said Jack Miner, president of the GLBT Alumni Society. "This really brings OSU's commitment to diversity—and commitment to our community—to another level."

In a unanimous decision made at today's Board of Trustees meeting, the University adopted a measure that includes a provision for same-sex domestic partner benefits for faculty, staff and students. Benefits include the medical, dental and vision insurance coverage currently offered to spouses of University employees. Coverage will be effective October 1, 2004.

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While the University expects an annual benefits budget increase of only one-half to three-quarters of 1 percent, both the University and the GLBT Alumni Society feel that positive results of the decision will be enormous.

“This will have a huge impact on recruitment and retention of top-notch faculty and students,” Miner said. “All people, not just the GLBT community, value teaching, learning and research environments that embrace diversity.”

The decision follows similar announcements by other state supported universities made within recent weeks. On June 25, 2004, Miami University and Ohio University jointly announced plans to extend health benefits to same sex domestic partners. Cleveland State University followed those institutions on June 27, 2004. For additional details about the measure passed today by OSU, please visit www.osu.edu.

The mission of the OSU Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni Society is to promote the best interest of the University’s GLBT alumni, as well as assist with the educational needs of current students. The society does this by providing fellowship and professional relationships among alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the society and by advocating for equality for GLBT alumni, students, faculty and staff.

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* **EDITOR’S NOTE:** Contacts listed above can provide additional GLBT alumni contact information for phone or live interviews.