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Contact: Mark R. Shanahan, OAQDA Executive Director and
The Governor's Energy Advisor
614-224-3383

Kent State to Receive OAQDA Funds for Energy Conservation Project

Columbus, OH – Kent State University's Stark and Tuscarawas regional campuses will receive up to \$2.5 million in financing for an energy efficiency and conservation project as part of a financing package authorized by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its April monthly meeting. The package will be financed by the issuance by OAQDA of Ohio Air Quality Development Revenue Bonds.

The OAQDA action is in response to a requirement in an institution-wide Energy Conservation Master Plan adopted by Kent State in 2008 to meet the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of 20 percent, as targeted by House Bill 251. The university's Stark and Tuscarawas campuses recently completed a competitive process to implement energy conservation measures as required by HB 251, resulting in its request for OAQDA financing to move forward.

Under the scope of the project, energy conservation measures in the plan include lighting retrofits, vending machine controls, HVAC upgrades, solar fountain and waterfall pumps, demand control ventilation, restroom exhaust, building automation enhancements, retro-commissioning, VAV (variable air volume) terminal controls and education programming on energy use behavior.

The energy conservation measures to be undertaken at the two branch campuses will cut energy consumption by 25 percent, resulting in annual savings of \$312,905, or 35 percent. In addition, the project will result in annual reductions in greenhouse gas emissions of 4001 tons of carbon dioxide, 38.1 tons of sulfur dioxide and 7.5 tons of nitrogen oxide. The reductions are the equivalent of removing 532 cars from the road.

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“Kent State University is Ohio’s second public higher education institution to embark on a major energy efficiency and conservation project through OAQDA in 2010. Governor Ted Strickland is committed to making Ohio a 21st century leader in advanced energy, and a key part of that commitment focuses on the need for consumers, businesses and public institutions to use energy more wisely while striving to reduce hazardous emissions into the air,” said Mark R. Shanahan, OAQDA executive director and the governor’s energy advisor.

Kent State’s Stark and Tuscarawas campuses, established in 1946 and 1968 respectively, serve almost 7,000 students in academic coursework that leads to achievement of associate, undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees.

In March 2010, Owens State Community College of received \$6.25 million in Ohio Air Quality Development Revenue Bond financing authorized by OAQDA for energy efficiency and conservation measures at its Hancock and Lucas County campuses.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$7 billion to finance air quality projects. In addition, the OAQDA Executive Director was appointed the Governor’s Energy Advisor in January 2007. Subsequently, in 2008, OAQDA was named as administering authority for the \$150 million Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at www.ohioairquality.org.