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For immediate release

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Terra Trustees Approve Budget Despite Uncertain Times at State Level

At its June 24 meeting, the Terra Community College Board of Trustees approved a \$15,160,000 budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year despite some uncertainty from the state.

"We are responsible by law to submit a budget by June 30," said board chair Helene Horvath Zielinski. "We felt even though we aren't certain about the state's level of support, we knew we had to fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities and we did just that."

The budget includes a five percent increase in both revenues and expenses.

While Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, Chancellor Eric Fingerhut and the state legislature believe that higher education is a critical part of economic development, state revenues have seen tremendous declines in the last few months, according to Zielinski.

About 42 percent of Terra's budget is state funded while 44 percent comes from student tuition and fees.

"The percentage that will come from state support, however, remains somewhat uncertain," said Terra president, Dr. Marsha S. Bordner.

With a 50 percent enrollment increase this summer and numbers at this point for fall semester up nearly 30 percent, the board felt comfortable with the percentage of the budget that is derived from tuition.

Some of the programs that are showing notable growth thus far for the fall include computer systems, early childhood education, law enforcement, mechanical engineering technology, nursing and the transfer module.

The percentage of the budget that the College budgets for from investments was also approved at a lower level, primarily due to low interest rates.

Another highlight of the budget included more funding for part-time faculty as the College's enrollments rise. Additional sections of certain classes have been scheduled to accommodate student interests.