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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2005

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Ohio IT Clearinghouse Now Online

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Quick help is now available for Ohioans interested in Information Technology careers. Professions related to information technology occupy 4 of the Top 10 spots in the recently released list of "Fastest Growing Occupations in Ohio. The Ohio IT Clearinghouse's new Web site, www.ohioitclearinghouse.org will help Ohioans find education, jobs, and IT-related training.

A project of the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR), the Ohio IT Clearinghouse is housed at the Ohio Learning Network (OLN on the web at www.oln.org)

IT is a key field in morphing Ohio's economic base from manufacturing to the new targets of the 21st century. More than 70% of employees in Ohio and around the country use IT tools daily to perform their work, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. These workers are "IT" workers almost by default – as their success depends on the effectiveness of the technology and technique created and operated by the IT profession.

The new Web site provides a wide range of information for several specific audiences:

- Students seeking careers in computer science or other IT-related fields
- Current workers who must deal with IT simply to do their jobs
- Educators seeking information about programs, techniques and other data supporting IT education
- Employers and workforce planners seeking information about the employment picture in the state.

The IT profession itself - while relatively small in numbers - has an enormous impact on the Ohio economy. IT directly affects sales of hardware, software and consulting services, as well as an enormous impact via the contribution their products make throughout the rest of the workforce. The Ohio IT Clearinghouse creates easy access to career information in the fast changing fields of computer science and IT-related fields.

Clearinghouse Coordinator Richard A. Bowers says the new site is a key component of that effort.

"This is not a static site," says Bowers. "It will change daily and weekly, just as the industry changes. As new information is released and organized, we will publish it

online here. We also maintain a Web log - or blog – accessible from the OITC’s homepage - that addresses news items that might be relevant to Ohio educators, researchers and practitioners in IT-related activities."

Bowers said other activities planned for the Clearinghouse include facilitating IT education in various workforce initiatives, working with the business community to ensure that Ohio's higher education providers are aware of current and prospective trends and changes, and working with other state education initiatives to bring IT knowledge to the largest possible number of Ohio learners.

For more information, contact Richard A. Bowers at OLN, 614/995-3240.