



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2009

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**Ohio Senate President Appoints State Senators
Gibbs and Schiavoni to the eTech Ohio Commission**

(Columbus, OH) – eTech Ohio is pleased to announce that Ohio Senate President Bill Harris recently appointed State Senators Bob Gibbs and Joe Schiavoni to the eTech Ohio Commission.

“The eTech Ohio Commission is proud to welcome Senators Gibbs and Schiavoni,” said eTech Ohio Interim Executive Director, David Barber. “As dedicated public servants of the Ohio Senate, their knowledge of the education system, comprehension of the challenges that Ohio faces and service will be an added benefit to our Commission.”

Senator Gibbs was first elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he served for six years. An accomplished legislator, Senator Gibbs represents the 22nd District and serves as the chair of the Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee, and the Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee. He also serves on the Education Committee.

“In this day and age, technology is one of the most important aspects to education and job creation,” said Senator Gibbs. “eTech Ohio has been recognized nationally as an educational technology leader. Today, it is more important than ever that our state continue to advance education and accelerate learning through technology in order to drive this economy. I am honored to serve on the eTech Ohio Commission, which provides guidance and support to promoting access and use of all forms of educational technology.”

Senator Joe Schiavoni is a newly elected member of the Ohio Senate representing the 33rd District encompassing Mahoning, Carroll, and portions of Stark and Tuscarawas counties. Senator Schiavoni is also the Ranking Minority Member of the Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee.

“I’m looking forward to serving as a member of the eTech Ohio Commission, as it is charged with advancing the knowledge of Ohioans through technology,” Senator Schiavoni said. “It is important that our residents continue to build upon their education in order to stay competitive in the 21st century economy.”

The Commission is made up of nine voting members and four non-voting members. The nine voting members include three statutory members, (the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State’s Chief Information Officer) four private citizens appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and another by

the President of the Senate. There are also four non-voting members, two from the Ohio House of Representatives and two from the Ohio Senate with representatives from the majority and minority parties. Governor Ted Strickland appointed Eric Fingerhut, Chancellor of the Board of Regents, as Chair of the 13 member Commission in 2007.

"We welcome Senators Gibbs and Schiavoni to the eTech Commission and appreciate their leadership to help advance technology in our state," said Chancellor Fingerhut. "We know the key to keeping and creating jobs is in advanced technology."

The Ohio Revised Code charges eTech Ohio with advancing the education and accelerating the learning of the citizens of Ohio through technology. It further states that eTech Ohio shall provide leadership and support in extending the knowledge of the citizens of this state by promoting access to and use of all forms of educational technology.

About eTech Ohio

eTech Ohio is a national leader in educational technology access and integration. eTech Ohio has made a commitment to serve Ohio citizens through educational initiatives and putting new technology to use for affiliates so that Ohio's learners will succeed in the schools of today and the world of tomorrow. Visit www.etech.ohio.gov for more information about eTech Ohio.