



## State University Education Deans

### MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Bowling Green State University  
(419)372-7401

Central State University  
(937)376-6175

Cleveland State University  
(216)687-3737

Kent State University  
(330)672-2202

Miami University  
(513)529-6317

The Ohio State University  
(614)292-1414

Ohio University  
(740)593-4403

Shawnee State University  
(740)351-3451

University of Akron  
(330)972-7680

University of Cincinnati  
(513)556-2322

University of Toledo  
(419)530-2026

Wright State University  
(937)775-2821

Youngstown State University  
(330)941-3215

February 16, 2004

Ms. Jennifer L. Sheets, President  
Ohio Board of Education

Dear Ms. Sheets:

The State University Education Deans spoke out in favor of keeping the Ohio Academic Content Standards in Science focused on scientific inquiry and scientific ways of knowing. We were pleased that the State Board of Education adopted science standards that included the theory of evolution and did "not mandate the teaching or testing or intelligent design."

Scientists and science educators among the faculty at Ohio's public institutions have shared with us a concern that Intelligent Design is creeping back into the Ohio science standards through the revised lesson plans recently posted on the Ohio Department of Education website and considered for adoption by the State Board. Specifically, the 10<sup>th</sup> grade lesson entitled "Critical Analysis of Evolution" has websites and resources that are religious, not scientific in nature. These resources are inappropriate in a lesson that should meet the standard of scientific inquiry and scientific ways of knowing. In addition, the lesson includes definitions and terminology that are used by the proponents of intelligent design.

We encourage the State Board of Education to leave the tenets of Intelligent Design out of Ohio's science classrooms and lessons for science.

Sincerely,

Donna B. Evans, Ph.D.

Chair, SUED

Cc: State Board members  
Dr. Susan Zelman, Superintendent, ODE  
Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu, Chancellor, OBR  
SUED members