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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Statement on False Claims Made about College Democrats

The Ohio University College Democrats wish to set the record straight regarding false reports now circulating about supposed misconduct in connection with a get-out-the-vote effort. The OU College Democrats have absolutely not been involved in any voter registration misconduct. The group does work hard to get students involved in elections, but we hold ourselves to the strictest ethical standards in doing so. To be specific:

- 1) No member of our organization has ever paid a voter to vote.
- 2) No member has ever accepted money for his or her own vote.

Any implication that any member of our organization has been involved with paying voters is false, unfounded and potentially libelous, as it incorrectly asserts illegal activity on the part of the College Democrats. These kinds of assertions, reported by the media, have no factual basis, and are based on statements misunderstood and taken out of context.

The GOTV program that has triggered the false reports was an effort by the Athens County Democratic Party to compensate volunteers financially for their time spent canvassing. This program was sponsored by the County Democratic Party, and was not originated by the College Democrats. The OU College Democrats have not raised or spent any money to pay volunteers. To date in this election cycle, no member of the group has received a dime for his or her canvassing work.

Any questions about the program should be directed to the chair of the Athens County Democratic Party, Susan Gwinn. Due to the misperceptions of the program, and questions that have been raised, the Ohio University College Democrats have decided that under no circumstances will we have any future involvement in such a program.

Members of Ohio University College Democrats want to emphasize in the strongest possible terms that no member of our group has EVER paid a voter, or accepted money for his or her own vote, and never will. Furthermore, no member of the Ohio University College Democrats has received compensation, or will receive compensation, through the Athens County Democratic Party's program.

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For more information about the Ohio University College Democrats, please contact Ohio University College Democrats Communications Director Chris Mullen at [cm679000@ohio.edu](mailto:cm679000@ohio.edu) or (740) 804-4250.