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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORMER HOCKING COLLEGE OFFICIALS PLEAD GUILTY TO ETHICS LAW VIOLATIONS

Hocking Technical College former President, John Light, and former Senior Vice President of Student Affairs, Roxanne DuVivier, plead guilty today in an Athens County Municipal Court to Ethics Law violations. Julie Korte of the Ohio Ethics Commission and Paul Scarsella of the Ohio Attorney General's Office acted as Special Prosecutors in the case.

In his plea, Light admitted to filing false Financial Disclosure Statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission. From 2002 through 2007, Light failed to disclose more than \$46,000 of travel expenses related to his college duties. As a college president, Light was required to disclose the source and amount of every payment incurred for travel whether he was reimbursed by the college for travel expenses or the college directly paid for travel on his behalf. He was found guilty of one misdemeanor of the first degree and ordered to pay a \$100 fine, court costs, and \$600 in restitution.

DuVivier entered pleas to four violations of the Ethics Law, including one public contract violation and three conflict of interest violations. She plead guilty to an unlawful interest in a public contract for authorizing and accepting payment to herself for service performed on a grant project conducted on behalf of Hocking Technical College. DuVivier authorized payment from the grant funds to herself and two staff members she supervised in the amount of \$9,224.17 each.

DuVivier also plead guilty to three conflict of interest violations:

- Assigning assessments for private parties who sought assessments through the

college's Gittinger Assessment Center to herself and submitting invoices to the college for payment on those assessments. Between 1993 and 2006, DuVivier authorized invoices from the Assessment Center to the college which then issued payments directly to DuVivier to a total amount of more than \$20,000. These payments were in addition to her salary as Senior Vice President of Student Affairs.

- Participating in contract authorization between Hocking Technical College and a privately-owned corporation, Noel Levitz, for which DuVivier performed consultation services. Further, DuVivier used college staff, resources and computers to conduct her private consultation business with Noel Levitz.
- Using college resources and equipment to perform consultation services for a separate company, Athens Analytica, regarding software developed by the college and on which DuVivier was an intellectual contributor. Athens Analytica conducted business with the college during that time.

DuVivier was found guilty of four misdemeanors of the first degree and ordered to make restitution to Hocking Technical College in the amount of \$14,244.17 and to the Ohio Ethics Commission in amount of \$5,000. In addition, the court ordered her to pay for court costs and \$400 in total fines for the violations.

“It’s unfortunate that these two individuals violated both the law and the trust of those who attend or work at Hocking Technical College,” said Executive Director Paul Nick. “This case illustrates the problem when public officials or employees neglect their responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to benefit the public interest rather than their personal interests.”