March 3, 2014

TO: Dr. Lloyd Jacobs

 President

FROM: Patricia Komuniecki, Ph.D.

 Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs & Dean

 College of Graduate Studies

 Co-Chair, Academic Honors Committee

 Dorothea Sawicki, Ph.D.

 Associate Dean & Vice Chancellor for

 Graduate Health Science Studies

 Co-Chair, Academic Honors Committee

RE: **Nomination for Honorary Degree for Senator Rob Portman**

The Academic Honors Committee has voted to recommend the nomination of Senator Rob Portman to the Board of Trustees for consideration for an honorary degree, to be conferred at the Spring Semester Commencement of the College of Medicine and Life Sciences on May 30, 2014:

**Senator Rob Portman**

Senator Portman was elected to the United States Senate representing Ohio in 2010 and previously served twelve years in the House of Representatives from Ohio’s 2nd District.

Senator Portman is a lawyer who developed his own private practice and then became a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Graydon, Head and Ritchey.

During his time in Congress, Mr. Portman promoted welfare reform efforts as a member of the committee that wrote the legislation and was a strong advocate of the balanced budget that passed in 1997. He was involved in several bipartisan legislative initiatives including advocating to increase retirement savings, IRS reform, addition of over fifty new taxpayer rights, curbing unfunded mandates, tax reduction, and expanding drug prevention and land conservation efforts.

Senator Portman left Congress in 2005 to serve in a cabinet-level post as the United States Trade Representative responsible for implementing and enforcing U.S. trade policy. During this time, he was able to reduce barriers to U.S. exports and increase enforcement of trade laws to help American farmers, workers and service providers. Under his leadership, American exports increased and the U.S. brought successful legal challenges against international trade law violations. Mr. Portman also served as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. He proposed a balanced budget, fighting irresponsible earmarks and putting in place new transparency measures for all federal spending.

Senator Portman currently serves on several U.S. Senate committees. He is active on the Senate Finance Committee and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and serves as a Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce. He also serves on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the Subcommittee on Emergency Management, Intergovernmental Relations and the District of Columbia. He is active on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, with assignments on the Subcommittee on Energy and the Subcommittee on National Parks. He also participates on the Senate committee on the Budget.

Senator Portman was born and raised in Cincinnati where he currently resides with his wife and their three children.

The Academic Honors Committee recommends that The University of Toledo confer on Senator Rob Portman the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa.*

Attachment – Portman bio

**Portman Biography**

Rob Portman is a United States Senator from the state of Ohio. He was elected in 2010, running a campaign that focused on common-sense conservative ideas to help create jobs and get the deficit under control. Rob won with a margin of 57 to 39 percent, winning 82 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Rob was born and raised in Cincinnati, where he lives today with his wife Jane, and their three children, Jed, Will and Sally. He grew up in a small business family, where he learned early on the value of hard work, leadership, and fiscal responsibility. When Rob was young, his dad, Bill Portman, borrowed money to start Portman Equipment Company, where Rob and his brother and sister all worked while growing up. His father, and then his brother, built the family business from a small forklift truck dealership with five employees, with Rob's mom as the bookkeeper, to one that employed more than 300 people. Rob became a lawyer and developed his own private practice, representing Portman Equipment Company and other small businesses. In 1993, Rob was a partner in the Cincinnati law firm of Graydon, Head and Ritchey when he was elected to Congress, where he represented the diverse, seven county Second District in southern Ohio. He was proud to serve the Second District for twelve years, and in seven elections, he never received less than seventy percent of the vote.

During his time representing the Second District, Rob earned a reputation as a serious leader who focused on results. Rob was actively involved in crafting and promoting the historic welfare reform efforts as a member of the committee that wrote the legislation, and he was a forceful advocate of the balanced budget that passed in 1997. Rob gained the respect of both Republican and Democratic colleagues through his successful, bipartisan legislative initiatives, including several measures he authored to increase retirement savings, reform the IRS and add over fifty new taxpayer rights, curb unfunded mandates, reduce taxes, and expand drug prevention and land conservation efforts.

In 2005, Rob left Congress when he was asked to serve as the United States Trade Representative, the Cabinet-level official responsible for implementing and enforcing U.S. trade policy. In his one year in the job, Rob was successful in reducing barriers to U.S. exports and increasing enforcement of trade laws to help level the playing field for American farmers, workers and service providers. Under his leadership, American exports increased and the U.S. brought successful legal challenges against international trade law violations.

Following his accomplishments as Trade Representative, Rob was asked to serve in another Cabinet post, this time as Director of the Office of Management and Budget. A deficit hawk, Rob made his mark by proposing a balanced budget, fighting irresponsible earmarks, and putting in place new transparency measures for all federal spending.

Rob succeeded George Voinovich as Ohio's U.S. Senator on January 5, 2011 and immediately began fighting for pro-growth, pro-jobs policies to help get Ohio and our nation back on track.