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## For Immediate Release

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# Census Road Tour coming to Athens County

Area residents are invited learn more about the upcoming U.S. Census count and add their voices to the new Portrait of America project at two special events on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

On Tuesday, the Census Bureau's Portrait of America Road Tour will be stopping at Ohio University's Baker University Center and Hocking College's Student Recreation Center. The Road Tour brings a free, interactive and educational experience to each stop. The tour will be in the third floor atrium area inside Ohio University's Baker Center from 12-2 p.m. and then inside Hocking College's Student Recreation Center from 3:30-5 p.m..

Those at the Road Tour stops will receive information about the Census and will be invited to share their images and stories, explaining why the Census will make a difference in Athens County and southeastern Ohio. The comments will be videotaped and added to the Portrait of America project, which will be posted online on the 2010 Census YouTube and Flickr channels.

The Census count is extremely important to Athens County, and all area residents are strongly encouraged to fill out their Census forms. College students are reminded that if they are living in Athens County during the school year, they should be counted as Athens County residents on the Census forms, not as residents of the hometowns that they may return to during breaks in school.

Information from the Census is used to reapportion Congressional seats and determine how local governments are organized. The city of Nelsonville, for example, needs to keep its population above 5,000 in order to remain a city. If the population of the city of Athens increases enough, the city could add additional members to Athens City Council, receive more funding for projects and even receive additional liquor licenses for bars and restaurants.

Information from the U.S. Census affects how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments. The Census count also guides local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish child care and senior centers, and build new roads, hospitals, schools and job training and community centers. The Census numbers are also used by businesses considering opening new stores, restaurants or offices in Athens County. The more people that are counted in the 2010 Census, the better chance Athens County has of bringing new stores, business and jobs to the county.

In short, the 2010 Census will have a direct impact on every person living in America.

For more information on the 2010 U.S. Census or on the Portrait of America Road Tour stops at Ohio University and Hocking College on Tuesday, Jan. 19, call Nick Claussen at 797-2523.