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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 10, 2010

Contact : Sue McKinney

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA AGREES TO PAY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \$500,000 TO RESOLVE ALLEGATIONS VIOLATIONS OF THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT AT FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

The Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia has agreed to pay the United States \$500,000 to settle allegations that senior administrators and personnel at Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, Georgia, violated the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. §3729 *et seq.* according to G.F. "Pete" Peterman, III, Acting United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. Specifically, the United States contended that from June 1, 2001, through April 30, 2007, Fort Valley State University senior administrators and personnel falsely certified compliance with the specific requirements of the National Science Foundation's \$2.5 million cooperative agreement entitled *Strengthening Undergraduate Preparation in Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology*.

"This settlement demonstrates the commitment of our office to the vigorous enforcement of the False Claims Act," Acting United States Attorney Peterman stated.

Mr. Peterman praised the work of Special Agent Jennifer A. Springmann and Investigative Attorney Fara Damelin, Office of Inspector General of the National Science Foundation, who conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Danial E. Bennett represented the government in this matter. For additional information, contact Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, at 478-621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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