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★ OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ★ WABASH COLLEGE ★ WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY ★ COLLEGE OF WOOSTER

**KENYON'S ODEN NAMED NORTH COAST PRESIDENT;
WITTENBERG'S TIPSON TO SERVE AS VICE-PRESIDENT**

**For Immediate Release
July 19, 2001**

CLEVELAND -- Robert A. Oden Jr., president of Kenyon College, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the North Coast Athletic Conference, effective July 1, 2001. Oden, who had served as the NCAC's vice president the past two years, was chosen to succeed R. Stanton Hales of the College of Wooster. Baird Tipson, president of Wittenberg University, was elected vice president.

Dennis M. Collins remains Executive Director of the conference for the 18th consecutive year.

Oden became Kenyon's seventeenth president in July 1995. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard College, and he also holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Cambridge University. Oden earned a second master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a doctorate from Harvard University.

Before his arrival at Kenyon, Oden was headmaster of the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut, one of the nation's oldest and most highly regarded independent schools. He saw the school's endowment nearly double as the result of a successful capital campaign. Prior to his term at Hotchkiss, Oden was at Dartmouth College, rising to the rank of full professor and serving as the Chair of the Dept. of Religion, as well as the first director of Dartmouth's Humanities Institute, of which he is a founder. He became the first recipient of Dartmouth's Distinguished Teaching Award, determined by a vote of the senior class. Oden was also presented an honorary master's degree by the college.

Oden's research interests have been focused on biblical literature and other topics related to the ancient Near East, as well as comparative religions. A widely published author of articles and books (his most recent volumes are *The Bible Without Theology* [1987] and the forthcoming *A History of Biblical Scholarship*), Oden has lectured at educational institutions and academic meetings across the country and abroad. He is well-known for his taped lectures for The Teaching Company, among them "*God and Humanity: A History of Comparative Religions.*"

Outside of academics, Oden is an avid salmon and trout fisherman and a serious runner.

Founded in 1983, the North Coast Athletic Conference consists of 10 academically selective colleges and universities - Allegheny College, Denison University, Earlham College, Hiram College, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, Ohio Wesleyan University, Wabash College, Wittenberg University and the College of Wooster. The NCAC sponsors 22 championship sports, 11 for men and 11 for women.

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TRANSACTIONS:

North Coast Athletic Conference - Named Kenyon College President, Robert A. Oden, conference president; Also named Wittenberg University President, Baird Tipson, conference vice president.