Students learn politics
OSU scholars gain answers from leaders

By Michelle Raines
Lantern staff writer

CINCINNATI — Twenty-five students attending Ohio colleges, including five from Ohio State, are participating in the first Government Studies Program held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Governors' Association.

The students were welcomed Saturday by Gov. Richard F. Celeste and Cincinnati Vice Mayor Peter Strauss.

Mark Cannon, a representative of the Student Loan Funding Corporation of Ohio, said the students have been invited to attend all full-member sessions of the three-day convention and are participating in special workshops of their own.

"Students don't have enough exposure to the practical politics, especially in the Midwest," Cannon said.

He said students were brought to the convention to increase their knowledge of state governments. These "outstanding" students are the leaders of the future, he said.

The students said they enjoyed talking with each other and with the governors.

Patrick J. Schmitz, an OSU law student from Avon, said, "It rekindled my interest in state government, and I think after going to Ohio State for the next three years, I will be sold on state government."

Because he has benefited from the program, Schmitz hopes the governors did also. He said, "Hopefully this program will serve to make them (the governors) a little more attentive to our views in the future and to what we have to offer."

The all-expense-paid program was organized and sponsored by Celeste, the National Governors' Association and the Student Loan Funding Corporation of Ohio.

The governors' meeting will be held in Illinois next year, and steps are being taken to offer the program there, Cannon said.

William J. Bien, a junior from Columbus majoring in economics, said, "I think we're promoting a good image of students interested in politics and also state service."

Most of the students said they were looking forward to seeing President Reagan today, but William P. DeMora, a senior from Euclid majoring in political science and president of the OSU College Democrats, said he hopes to see Gov. Michael Dukakis, who is scheduled to speak Tuesday.

Diana Lee Kenworthy, a sophomore from Bexley majoring in political science, and Polly Ann Leeper, a graduate student majoring in city and regional planning, also attended the meeting.

Cannon said Ohio schools were asked to nominate candidates. A panel of five educators and individuals active in education-related organizations reviewed the applications and selected the final participants.