

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Proposes \$550 million Capital Improvement Plan for New Jersey's Colleges and Universities

Gov. Christie Whitman today proposed a \$550 million capital improvement plan for New Jersey's colleges and universities.

The plan will help both public and independent colleges and universities address pressing capital renewal and renovation needs, as well as make health and safety improvements needed to maintain a safe educational or working environment. Once those needs are met, funds may also be used for the construction or improvement of educational facilities, or for technology infrastructure.

Through a matching grant program, the state will provide a total of \$359 million in grants to New Jersey's institutions of higher education. Of that total, \$334 million will be available to public institutions, while \$25 million will be available to independent institutions. These funds will leverage a total of \$550 million for capital needs.

"This comprehensive program continues my commitment to make New Jersey's colleges and universities among the best in the nation," Gov. Whitman said. "In addition, this program will help students and families by relieving pressure on tuition costs. Without this assistance, colleges and universities would likely have to raise tuition to meet the costs of needed capital improvements. "

Public institutions seeking grants will apply directly to the Commission on Higher Education. Once the Commission approves an application, it will be submitted to the Legislature, which will have 60 days to disapprove the Commission's recommendation. The funds will then be available to cover two-thirds of the debt service costs incurred by the college or university in their capital spending project.

Private institutions seeking grants will undergo a similar process, with the exception that their funds will be subject to a dollar-for-dollar match. The proposed specifics of the capital plan are attached.

Legislation to enact the Governor's proposal will be forwarded to the Legislature for its consideration shortly.

Higher Education Facilities Preservation and Enhancement Fund Allocation

PRELIMINARY BOND PROPOSAL CALCULATION

Research Institutions

Rutgers University-----	\$169,000,000
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-----	\$ 95,000,000
New Jersey Institute of Technology-----	\$ 61,000,000

TOTAL----- \$325,000,000*

Other Public Institutions

New Jersey City University-----	\$17,185,000
Kean University	\$22,452,000
Montclair State University	\$28,122,000
Ramapo College	\$13,125,000
Rowan University	\$23,887,000
Richard Stockton College	\$21,052,000
College of New Jersey	\$25,515,000
William Paterson University	\$23,660,000
TOTAL	\$175,000,000*

AICUNJ Institutions

Bloomfield	\$2,413,463
Caldwell College	\$2,293,879
Centenary College	\$1,728,633
College of Saint Elizabeth	\$2,270,355
Drew University	\$2,609,502
Fairleigh Dickinson University	\$6,704,743
Felician College	\$1,858,019
Georgian Court College	\$2,635,641
Monmouth University	\$4,587,539
Princeton University	\$4,129,220
Rider University	\$4,418,292
Saint Peter's College	\$3,516,511
Seton Hall University	\$7,611,751
Stevens Institute of Technology	\$3,222,452
TOTAL	\$50,000,000*

*(totals include matching funds)

Support from College Presidents

Fairleigh Dickinson University, President Dr. Francis J. Mertz (chairman, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey)

"The Higher Education Facilities Preservation and Enhancement Fund is a solid investment by the State of New Jersey in the capital needs of higher education. As independent institutions with public missions, participation in the fund will allow us to better provide educational resources for the 40,000 New Jersey students our colleges and universities enroll. Renovation and renewal of facilities and infrastructure constitute a necessary but significant expense. We are grateful to Governor Whitman for her initiative in proposing an innovative way to establish a partnership for addressing these needs."

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, President Dr. Stuart D. Cook

"As one of the three senior academic research institutions in the state, UMDNJ is committed to increasing the flow of research funding into New Jersey and increasing our collaboration with New Jersey's pharmaceutical industry. We commend the Governor for putting forth this proposal because in order to achieve these goals, the university must generate funds to build the research facilities that will keep UMDNJ nationally competitive in attracting scientists to its faculty who have outstanding research credentials. To successfully harness the research funding available and contribute to the economic growth of the state, we will require a major capital construction initiative to build and upgrade the physical plant and technology capabilities on all of our campuses."

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, President Vera King Farris

"The capital program represents a giant step toward making our facilities ready for the 21st century. The big winners here are tomorrow's college students: those young people who are now in elementary, junior high and high school."

William Paterson University, President Arnold Speert

"The program will enable our campus to meet some critical facilities needs that we simply have not been able to address until now. New Jersey students deserve learning places that are safe, modern and attractive and this investment in our future helps us fulfill that objective."