

# Building Blocks To A Better Rutgers

*"In our society, education is the key to advancement. More attainment in education is the path to more earnings and success in life. And a highly educated work force is a key to New Jersey's competitiveness. So we must continue to fund higher education, and to make it more available to everyone with the brains and ambition to climb that ladder to success."*

– Governor Chris Christie, Budget Address, February 21, 2012

## PROVIDING NECESSARY RESOURCES TO IMPROVE OUR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Today, Governor Christie participated in a groundbreaking ceremony at Rutgers University for construction projects funded through the Higher Education bond referendum. Rutgers has been awarded a total of nearly \$360 million in state grant funds for 29 projects across its three campuses.

Today's ceremony will break ground on a new \$87 million academic building project, which is receiving \$55 million in grant funds. The 163,000 square foot facility that will serve as the first dedicated home for Rutgers' School of Arts and Sciences in New Brunswick. When it's finished in 2016, it will house modern lecture halls and classrooms with a total of 3,000 seats of instructional space featuring state-of-the-art technology and ranging from 80 to 250 seats per classroom and will house departmental offices and offices for the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. This project will help support increased enrollment demand while providing state-of-the-art educational facilities for students, helping to meet New Jersey's future workforce demands and keeping our state's economy moving. An estimated 1,200 construction jobs and 5,700 indirect jobs will be created as a result of this investment.

Earlier this month, Governor Christie attended a ceremony for an \$86.3 million improvement project at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). To date, 176 higher education capital projects have been approved. A full list of approved projects can be found here: <http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/documents/130430CapitalFinancingGrants-ListsofApprovedProjects2.pdf>

## GREATER SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM AND STUDENTS

Governor Christie's fiscal year 2014 budget provides \$120 million in increased State support for institutions of higher education and student assistance.

- **Governor Christie's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Increases Resources for Higher Education Institutions and Students by Approximately \$120 Million.** Total State support was increased from \$2.04 billion to \$2.16 billion.
- **\$75.3 Million of the Additional Funding Goes to the Twelve State Colleges, Medical Schools and Hospitals and Research Institutions.** Total State support for State colleges and research institutions is over \$1.48 billion, supporting day-to-day operations and paying the cost of employee fringe benefits.