

Investing In New Jersey's Higher Education Institutions

Governor Christie Is Committed To Providing New Jersey's Colleges and Universities With The Resources They Need To Prepare Students To Succeed In The 21st Century

Since the beginning of his administration, Governor Christie has made it a priority to ensure that New Jersey's colleges and universities have modern, world-class facilities to retain our best students and attract research partners who are looking to bring good-paying jobs and businesses here. Today, Governor Christie returns to New Jersey Institute of Technology to visit the Central King Building, a state-of-the-art STEM teaching and learning hub that is under construction with the assistance of \$86.3 million in state grant awards, including \$30.7 million in funding from the Building Our Future General Obligation Bond Act (GO Bond Act).

The project has created about 1,000 construction jobs and is expected to be completed by January 2017. NJIT anticipates an enrollment increase of 50 percent from 2011 and a 75 percent increase over 2005 numbers as a result of the King Building project. Additionally, a second NJIT project, the Life Sciences and Engineering Building, is also underway. Paid for with \$13.5 million in state funding, including \$9 million in GO Bond Act funds, this state-of-the-art research facility is designed to promote collaboration among faculty, students, staff and external partners in fields ranging from biomedical engineering and the biological sciences to electrical engineering and health care technologies.

Making Higher Education Infrastructure A Priority

Building Our Future: Governor Christie signed the GO Bond Act into law on August 7, 2012, allowing for the first such bond program dedicated to capital improvement projects for higher education since 1988. In November 2012, New Jersey voters approved the issuance of a \$750 million public referendum, which authorized the State to issue and direct bond proceeds for capital improvements to the State's various higher education sectors.

Combined with grant funding made available from other state-supported grant programs for higher education facilities, the Christie Administration authorized nearly \$1.3 billion in grants in 2013 for 176 projects at 46 institutions for cutting-edge research laboratories, computerized classrooms and cyber networks that allow students and faculty to interact with colleagues around the world.

The remaining balance of the Building Our Future Bond Act funding, \$34 million, was made available for grant awards in the fall of 2015, along with an additional \$146 million in Higher Education Capital Improvement Program bond funds to assist with the repair and update of critically needed academic facilities. These projects will be announced later this year.

Greater Support For New Jersey's Higher Education System And Students

Resources for Higher Education Institutions and Students: Under the Governor's fiscal year 2017 budget, total State support is over **\$2.2 billion**.

Funding For Tuition Aid Grants: To ensure an affordable in-state college education is available to all, TAG grants are available at 56 public and private institutions across New Jersey. Since taking office, Governor Christie has increased State funding for the TAG program by over 60%, to a total of **\$403.6**

million in fiscal year 2017. Approximately 68,000 students, or one-third of all full-time undergraduate students attending school in New Jersey, will receive support from TAG.

College Readiness Now: Funded at \$1 million in fiscal year 2017, this program will help students prepare for college level course work before they graduate high school. Funding will fully support partnerships between county colleges and at least 60 high schools throughout the state, with at least one in each county. In the initial pilot of the program in fiscal year 2015, 19 community colleges partnered with over 60 high schools across the state, serving 900 high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This year, 92 high schools are partnering with the 19 community colleges to serve a projected 1,860 high school students.

Governor's Urban Scholarship: The Governor's Urban Scholarship program will add a fifth class, and will now support an estimated 635 scholars in targeted school districts.