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Gov. Christie: The Building Our Future Bond Act Is Keeping Students In NJ

Thursday, September 21, 2017 Tags: [Education](#)



Gov. Christie: The Building Our Future Bond Act Is Keeping Stude...

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: I'm tired of having some of our best students leave this state and feel as if they need to go someplace else to get a great education. It's not because we don't have great institutions, it's because of the capacity those institutions could serve in a way that was appropriate. So because of things that we've done here in partnership at NJIT, by 2020, enrollment here is estimated to expand by more than 14,000 students, a 50-percent enrollment increase from 2011 and a 75-percent enrollment increase from 2005. Why is that so important? Because we don't want our best and brightest young people to leave our state and not come back, and we know that if they go to college someplace else that's maybe where they get the first internship. That may be where they get their first real job offer. That may be where they find someone to fall in love with, and they may never come back for those reasons. If they believe they have an opportunity here in their home state to get a quality education at an affordable price, which is exactly what NJIT is doing, we're going to keep a lot more of those students and it's going to make our state, not today or tomorrow, but a decade or more from now, a much more vibrant place than it even is today. That's exactly why I advocated for the Building Our Future Bond Act. There had been no investment in higher education capital programs in this state since 1987. Governors before me had let the time go by again and again and ignored the requests of leaders of our higher education institutions for the state to be a partner. It seemed to me that that was long overdue and the 25 years was much too long a time and so the \$1.3 billion that the state invested through the Building Our Future Bond Act, which was as Joel pointed out, just part of it, because we required a match from the institutions as well to make sure they had skin in the game, is now nearly four years later leading to buildings like this going up and being opened all across the state, north, central, and south. And it is a great thing for our students, and a great thing for our state's economy to have that done.

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