

## ***The Rowland Administration's Investment in the State's Future***

When Governor Rowland took office in 1995 he heard repeated complaints by educators, teachers, students and parents alike about problems at each of the public higher education units. Some facilities were woefully overcrowded or unusable due to leaking roofs or faulty heating systems. Overall the state had put off for many years the necessary investments in infrastructure—and the results of this neglect were obvious.

Connecticut desperately needed to rebuild its public universities' infrastructure. At stake was the state's ability to retain and attract businesses that rely on an educated, technologically skilled workforce. The only way to do this was to ensure that Connecticut had competitive and world-class public institutions of higher learning. What represents nothing short of a transformation, under Governor Rowland's leadership, the State of Connecticut began an unprecedented and massive capital investment strategy that is now paying, and will continue to pay, remarkable dividends.

In 2001, 56% of Connecticut's recent high-school graduates who entered college chose to attend college in state. This was a significant change since 1992 when regular data collection began. Up to that point, the majority of Connecticut students entering college went out-of-state. This shift to retaining a majority of Connecticut's new college freshmen wasn't an accident, but one key result of a comprehensive plan of investment in the future of our state. Not only are we slowing the "brain drain;" we are also seeing a "brain gain" as our public institutions begin to attract more talented out-of-state students to Connecticut.

The following are some of the highlights of the dramatic improvements and changes that have occurred as the result of Governor Rowland's efforts to create the best public higher education system in Connecticut history:

### **The University of Connecticut**

The University has organized its infrastructure improvement through two capital investment strategies: UConn 2000 and 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn. Funding allocations for UConn 2000 will be completed next year, at which time the 21<sup>st</sup> Century UConn projects will get underway. Together the two capital investment programs represent a \$2.3 billion investment in the University's infrastructure.

- UConn 2000 data: \$912 million of projects authorized to date with State debt service commitment for 50 UConn 2000 projects which affect the following gross square footage of space:  
New Construction = 3,452,161 GSF  
Totally Renovated Space = 2,112,628 GSF  
Partially Renovated Space = 2,509,718 GSF
- UConn 2000 has been a significant factor in increasing the University's enrollment directly (in terms of added capacity) and indirectly (in terms of its ability to attract outstanding faculty and a general perception of excellence).

### **1995-2003 comparisons:**

- Undergraduate enrollment up from 14,667 to 19,287 (up 31%).
- Total enrollment up from 22,973 to 26,632. 58 percent increase from 2,021 to 3,208 in freshman admissions at Storrs since 1995. Regional campus enrollment this year is up 10 percent.
- Applications for Storrs and regional campuses up from 10,809 to 18,724 this year (for 4135 places)
- Increasingly competitive admissions. In 1995, 70% of the students were admitted, this fall, only 53% were admitted.
- Average freshman class SAT up from 1028 to 1169.
- Approximately 470 valedictorians and salutatorians have joined the University of Connecticut since 1995—more than 70 this fall.
- Total minority undergraduate enrollment (all four years) up from 3,015 in 1995 to 4,149 this fall.

- New facilities, outstanding faculty, and a special emphasis led to increased research awards at Storrs-based programs from \$55.9 million in FY '96 to an estimated \$103 million in FY '04. (Health Center research has increased from \$42.5 million to about \$103.5 million in the same time period.)
- Private giving has also increased from about \$8 million in 1995 to more than \$42 million in 2003. UConn is on-target for its \$300 million fundraising campaign, scheduled to be completed next June. It had a record total of 38,500 donors last year, and its annual alumni giving rate of 24% ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation among public universities. The University's endowment has grown from \$49.9 million in FY95 to over \$209 million in FY03.
- Applications for this year's freshman class were up 28 percent this year and, for the first time, out-of-state applications outnumbered in-state applications. The freshman class remains 70 percent Connecticut students, but the increasing number of applications demonstrates that the University is receiving widespread recognition.
- UConn is in the Top 25 of public universities in the *U.S. News & World Report* and is again the top-ranked public university in New England.

### **The Connecticut State University System**

Since 1995, \$502.7 million has been allocated by the State Bond Commission to the Connecticut State University System. This tremendous investment by Governor Rowland and the General Assembly has enabled **Central, Eastern, Southern** and **Western** to make great strides in meeting the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and addressing accessibility, academic quality and enrollment demands.

- The universities are now institutions of choice for Connecticut residents. During the past three years, enrollment has increased substantially and now the CSU System is serving 22,173 full-time students which represents an increase of 4,066 students (or 22%) since 1995.

- Applications for admission to CSU universities are at an all-time high. Freshman applications have increased from 11,679 in 1997 to 15,836 in 2002 (or an increase of 36%).
- The state investment has done much to increase academic quality by improving library, science and classroom facilities at all of the universities.
- **Eastern** completed construction on a \$27 million, state-of-the-art library in 1998, **Western** finished a \$17 million renovation and expansion of its library in 2000, and once the bond bill is passed, **Southern** will have \$63 million to begin a comprehensive renovation and expansion of its library. These new and planned facilities add needed square footage and create modern library settings designed to enhance the learning experience.
- **Western** began construction on a \$44 million science building this fall. \$25 million in renovations, including an expansion, have been made to **Central's** science facility and \$56 million is pending in the FY 2005 bond bill for a new science building at **Eastern**.
- **Central's** Vance Academic Center and Classroom building was completed in 2000 and **Southern** will complete the renovation and expansion of its main academic building, Engleman Hall, in 2004.
- Critical physical plant upgrades have also been accomplished. A new energy center and underground utilities infrastructure is being constructed at **Central** to replace a power plant constructed in the 1920's. A similarly outdated power plant is being replaced at **Southern**.
- CSU's physical education, athletics, and intramural sports programs have benefited from the construction of a new baseball stadium at **Eastern** and a new football stadium at **Western**.
- Since 1995, \$64.4 million has been allocated by the Bond Commission to finance the System's new and replacement equipment program. These funds have been instrumental in automating classrooms and providing students, faculty and staff with the technologies necessary to enhance the educational process.
- Student life on **CSU** campuses has improved substantially since 1995 when Governor Rowland and the General Assembly championed legislation that allowed the CSU System to finance student housing, parking garages and student centers with bonds issued by the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority. The result has been improved housing, more parking and the creation of student centers that make immeasurable contributions to the students' academic and social pursuits.
- With CHEFA bonds, residence halls at **Eastern, Southern** and **Western** have been brought online and new residence halls at those universities are scheduled for completion in the next two years. With the construction of new parking garages at all four universities, over 2,670 new parking spaces are now available -- making it easier for CSU's large student commuter population to get to their classes.

Additionally, **Central** recently completed the renovation and expansion of its student center and construction of a new student center is underway at **Southern**.

### **Community-Technical Colleges**

The Rowland Administration's investment of \$270.9 million in capital improvements at the Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges, from 1995 to date, has resulted in significant upgrading and modernization of Connecticut's Community-Technical College facilities and infrastructure. Funding authorizations for capital equipment, technology infrastructure, and integrated management information systems were also included in the plan.

The Governor's commitment to the Board of Trustees' Long Range Plan, which extends capital planning into 2008, will bring the total of authorized funding to \$714 million, an unprecedented investment in two-year public higher education and future opportunities for Connecticut's students.

#### **Major campus improvements and expansions accomplished since 1995 include:**

**Capital Community College's** consolidated campus opened in the renovated G. Fox building in downtown Hartford in Fall 2002. The \$61 million investment resulted in expanded educational and economic opportunities for the citizens of Hartford and the Greater Hartford region. College enrollments increased by 11 percent over the previous fall. Further expansion is planned to accommodate demand by students and employers.

**Manchester Community College** celebrated dual openings for its award-winning Learning Resources Center in 2000 and for its innovative Arts, Sciences, and Technology complex in Spring 2003. The \$61 million campus development project included replacing thirty-year-old facilities on the East Campus with state-of-the-art library resources, general purpose classrooms, computer labs, science, art, and music facilities. Renovations to the college's existing Lowe Building were also completed.

**Middlesex Community College**, Middletown, saw extensive improvements to campus pedestrian circulation, walkways, and parking lots that included ADA compliance, upgraded site lighting, landscape and drainage systems. Heating and ventilation improvements were also among the college's projects.

**Naugatuck Valley Community College**, Waterbury, has completed the design for its 100,000-square-foot Technology Center that will provide state-of-the-art technological education for Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley region. The new Center will replace out-dated temporary buildings and provide state facilities for the college's Automotive Technology program, previously operated in leased space.

**Norwalk Community College's** new Center for Information Technology, one of the most cutting-edge facilities in the Northeast, was completed under the capital improvement plan and opened for classes in Fall 2003. This interdisciplinary center offers innovative computer courses, liberal arts, and customized workforce training using the latest equipment and one of the fastest broadbands available. Master planning for the future development of the college (Phase II) is also in progress. Funds to finance design and construction are included in the proposed capital budget.

**Northwestern Connecticut Community College**, Winsted, completed Phase I of its campus development plan including completion of a new 24,000-square-foot Learning Resource Center, renovations to 55,000 square feet of the historic Founders' Hall, including new infrastructure systems, and the renovation of two older residential properties that now house the college's Registrar, Admissions, and Business Offices. Phase II of Northwestern Connecticut's campus development plan is moving ahead with construction of a new 32,000-square-foot Arts and Sciences Building. Renovations, window replacement, and site improvements to Greenwoods Hall, another historic building in the college complex, also await the beginning of construction.

**Quinebaug Valley Community College**, Danielson, has completed the design for additions and renovations to its library and academic support spaces as well as for a new 30,000-square-foot addition containing classrooms, labs, and offices. Funds for construction are included in the proposed capital budget.

**Tunxis Community College**, Farmington, is nearing completion of the design process for its new Learning Resource Center, arts and sciences laboratories, student services space, and state-of-the-art technology-supported classrooms. Master planning for Phase II of Tunxis facilities development is also in progress. Funds for Phase I are included in the proposed capital budget.

**Master Planning**, the first step in campus development, includes analysis of student, programmatic and technology needs as well as an evaluation of facility capacity and the potential for enrollment growth:

Planning for site acquisition and renovations at **Asnuntuck Community College**, Enfield, has recently been initiated in order to modernize the college's facilities and provide technology upgrades that will ensure programmatic currency to meet the expectations of the region's employers. Funds for acquisition are included in the proposed capital budget.

**Gateway Community College**, New Haven, continues the master planning for consolidation of the college's two campuses as part of a collaborative effort with the City of New Haven's planning for downtown revitalization that includes a higher education institution.

**Housatonic Community College**, Bridgeport, completed master planning that envisions major expansions to the college's facilities needed to serve the **64% increase in enrollment demand that the college has enjoyed since moving in 1997 to its downtown campus**. Funds for design are included in the proposed capital budget.

**Three Rivers Community College**, Norwich efforts directed at consolidating its two campuses at one state-of-the-art higher education site, located at the current Thames Valley campus, to serve the students, employers, and communities of the southeastern Connecticut region are moving forward. Design funds were allocated by the State Bond Commission on January 30, 2004

Numerous **deferred maintenance projects** have been accomplished throughout the Community College System within the scope of the Administration's capital planning. These on-going projects, while generally smaller in nature, are extremely important to preserving a safe college environment that responds to student and community needs. These projects consist of ADA Compliance projects, and Life Safety and Building Code upgrades projects. Since 1995 a number of these projects have occurred, including:

- ADA Site and Building compliance at Northwestern's Founders Hall, a structure dating from 1895, accomplished during campus construction and renovation, that included renovations of bathrooms, installation of an accessible elevator, and accessibility renovations to the science labs.
- Fire Code, Life Safety Code, and ADA Compliance projects have improved the majority of the system's colleges through extensive site work, installation of accessible doors and hardware, and bathroom renovations.

Beyond extensive work on planning, design, renovations, construction and deferred maintenance that has been accomplished with the funding support of the Administration's investment, other significant **system technology initiatives** have been implemented:

- Significant enhancements and upgrades have been realized at the individual colleges and within the System Data Center as part of the system's Technology Infrastructure Plan. These improvements provide the foundation and integration that facilitates streamlined IT services throughout the system.
- Funding for Capital Equipment has made possible the infusion of sophisticated instructional technology and educational equipment into classrooms, libraries, and laboratories throughout system, making technology and academic currency more accessible to community college students.
- A new integrated management information system, "SCT Banner," provides for administrative efficiencies and service enhancements for students including Web access for student admissions, advising, registration, financial aid, and faculty services.