

# NEWS RELEASE

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Connecticut  
State University  
System

## State Bond Commission Approves Capital Investments at Southern, Eastern

The State Bond Commission reaffirmed their collective commitment to higher education, moving forward with incremental projects that are part of development master plans at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven and Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic.

The Commission action was praised by Karl J. Krapek, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS). "I commend Governor Rell for recommending that the Bond Commission proceed with these capital projects, and appreciate the support of the Commission members. Investments in the universities are investments in Connecticut students and our state's future, and these actions make it clear that our state's leaders remain resolute in their commitment."

The projects include \$887,000 for construction of a 450-vehicle parking garage at Southern which, when completed, will allow construction of a new academic laboratory building to proceed on land that now is used for surface parking. The university's master plan calls for the parking garage to be constructed to accommodate vehicles that will be displaced by the academic laboratory building. The academic laboratory building is a top priority in Southern's master plan, as approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Bond Commission also authorized \$631,100 to install an emergency generator and uninterruptable power system in the media building at Eastern Connecticut State University, which includes the data center, the hub for all data operations at the university. The work will include modifications and upgrades to the electrical, HVAC, plumbing and fire suppression systems. Additionally, the Bond Commission reaffirmed a previous allocation of \$105,490 and the designation of \$94,510 in land acquisition funds to purchase a small parcel of property adjacent to the J.E. Smith Library at the entrance to the university campus. The purchase was envisioned as part of the library construction.

"These projects are steps along the way to assuring that our students will continue to receive high quality, affordable, transformational education in facilities that are both safe and offer the technology necessary for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace," said CSUS Chancellor David G. Carter. "Governor Rell and the members of the Bond Commission are to be commended for recognizing the importance of implementing objectives carefully analyzed and advanced in the university master plans. That is good news for our universities and our state's economy, now and in the future."

With 36,000 students, the CSUS is the state's largest university system. Consisting of Central in New Britain, Eastern in Willimantic, Southern in New Haven and Western in Danbury, the four university system reached all-time highs in the number of full-time undergraduate and graduate students enrolled this year. Nearly nine in ten CSUS graduates remain in the state after graduation, contributing to Connecticut's economic well-being and quality of life.

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