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GOVERNOR DELIVERS ON PROMISE TO MAKE NEW JERSEY WORK: \$101 MILLION TO FUND HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

Keeping his promise to make New Jersey work, Governor Jim Florio today delivered more than \$101 million in funds from the Jobs, Education and Competitiveness Bond issue to finance construction and rehabilitation projects at Rutgers University and the state's county colleges.

"We're here for the future. A future where New Jersey works and New Jersey learns," said Governor Florio. "We know it and the people of New Jersey know it. That's why they overwhelmingly passed the Jobs, Education and Competitiveness Bond Act of 1988. Because they knew that any investment we make in higher education will pay even greater dividends in the future."

The 1988 bond issue provides \$350 million to rehabilitate and construct higher education facilities. Rutgers University received \$93 million to fund 15 projects and \$8 million was awarded to county colleges to help build new classrooms and day care facilities.

"When we say New Jersey Works, it means we intend to keep our people working. I said in my State of the State address that now was the time to invest in New Jersey," said Governor Florio. "I said we could build our way through the recession and come out stronger. And I said I'd be there with my shovel to break ground all over the state. This is part of that promise we're keeping."

Governor Florio first presented a check for \$93,734,000 to Rutgers University President Francis Lawrence, at a ceremony on the college's Cook campus, which will help finance 15 projects in Phase III of the university's Fund for Distinction capital program. The projects include:

- \$23.9 million for a new building to house the AgBiotech Center and the department of plant science;
- \$5.3 million for the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences to help finance to house laboratories and a seawater research area;

- \$10.7 million to expand Alexander Library on the College Avenue campus;
- \$2.9 million for a new building to house the Graduate School of Management in Newark;
- \$9 million for a new Animal Care Facility and other laboratories on Busch Campus

"These new buildings will benefit every campus and they'll do more than give new opportunities in education," said Governor Florio. "It means jobs - several thousand of them. Good jobs across the state."

Governor Florio then traveled to Camden County College where he announced that county colleges will receive \$8 million for new classrooms and day care facilities. Projects will include:

- \$1.5 million to construct a joint Camden City campus for Camden County College and Glassboro State College
- \$1.5 million to Salem Community College for a new Community Education and Recreation building
- \$2 million for the expansion of the James Kearney campus at Mercer County college
- \$3 million for day care facilities at the majority of county colleges

"These projects will benefit every community college campus," said Governor Florio. "All of New Jersey has a stake in this investment, because community colleges not only educate. They help fuel our economy with training and retraining programs for business all across the state. That makes them a key resource for New Jersey's future. And if we want to make sure New Jersey works in the next century, we have to make it work today."

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