

Governor McCrory Talks Connect NC Education Investments at ECU

Greenville, N.C.

Mar 7, 2016

Governor Pat McCrory participated in a education bond panel discussion at East Carolina University today. If approved by voters, East Carolina University will receive \$90 million for a new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building.

"In the next five to six years, the job market in the life sciences field is expected to grow by 20 percent," Governor McCrory said. "The educational investments made here at ECU and throughout North Carolina will help educate the workforce of the future and grow our economy."

Governor McCrory was joined by Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry, ECU Chancellor Dr. Steve Ballard and Pitt Community College President Dr. Dennis Massey on the panel before nearly 150 students, education and business leaders from the region.

In total, Connect NC will provide \$1.3 billion to the UNC System and North Carolina's 58 community colleges.

East Carolina University will receive \$90 million for a new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building. The 150,000-square-foot facility will include the Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence, classes, and research and lab space for bioprocess and biomedical engineering. It will also be the new home for the Department of Biology.

Northeastern North Carolina stands to receive \$152 million from Connect NC for improvements to two universities, six state parks and six community colleges. Pitt Community College is slated to receive \$8.3 million for improvements.

In addition to investments in education, the \$2 billion Connect NC bond includes investments in national guard facilities, state parks, agriculture and water and sewer infrastructure.

Governor McCrory stated that North Carolina's population has grown by 2 million since the last bond was passed 15 years ago. He also reiterated that no tax increase is necessary to finance the bonds, now or in the future, given the state's strong revenue growth and ample debt service capacity.

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