NEWS RELEASE

Groundbreaking for CCSU Academic Building,
Library Renovations Unveiled

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NEW BRITAIN, CT – Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Commissioner Donald J. DeFronzo, Department of Administrative Services and Central Connecticut State University President Jack Miller today broke ground for a new construction project at CCSU and also celebrated the Elihu Burritt Library’s newly renovated first floor.

At 11 a.m., a short ceremony was held at the site of what will be the entrance to a new $38 million Academic Building. To be located between Davidson and Sanford halls, the new facility is part of the CSUS 2020 capital improvement initiative and will provide sorely needed classrooms, laboratories, and work space for students and faculty necessitated by increased enrollment and two 50-year-old classroom buildings.

Speaking to an audience of faculty, staff, administrators and special guests, Governor Malloy said “There is no academic institution that the state of Connecticut owns which is more important than this one.”

State lawmakers approved the CSUS 2020 building program four years ago in a move to upgrade, replace, and add new facilities at the four state universities (Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western). The initiative has significant implications for the economic well-being of the state because of the breadth of the university system. More Connecticut youth are enrolled as full-time undergraduates at the four CSUS campuses than either the University of Connecticut or the community college system.

“For the life of me,” Malloy said, “I don’t understand why the state of Connecticut has not invested more in our regional university system -- and that is going to change. I can assure you the dollars necessary to move those projects along will, in fact, be there. No one is going to out build us on these campuses over the next few years.”

Upon its completion during the summer of 2013, CCSU’s 75,000-square-foot building will house the departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Geography, and History.
“This is a great day for the University and for the Carol Ammon School of Arts & Sciences,” announced President Miller. “This is a lynchpin project. We have worked on getting this project going for so long and really appreciate Governor Malloy’s efforts to move this project forward. We all know we need to get people back to work and we have these projects ready to go.”

The President pointed out that the much deteriorated Willard and DiLoreto academic buildings will undergo major renovations once the classrooms in the new Academic Building are ready, anticipated in 2013.

In keeping with the look of the campus, the new Academic Building will have a brick exterior and copper roof. The design by Stantec Architecture, Inc. incorporates space for 17 classrooms, two computer labs, five specialized laboratories, a map room, three student lounge/study areas, 71 department and faculty, three general conference rooms, and five department conference rooms. It was designed to meet LEED Silver certification -- an internationally-recognized green building certification system. LEED provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

The Department of Construction Services (formerly the Department of Public Works) is overseeing the construction of the new building. Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services Donald DeFronzo oversees the department, and as a former New Britain mayor and state senator, shared his hometown perspective on the importance of the state’s investment in CCSU.

“For those of us who were born here and grew up here have seen this institution grow from a small local teachers’ college to a large, internationally-connected, highly-respected state university,” DeFronzo said. “CCSU has come to be one of the region’s largest employers with over 1500 staff members; it contributes over $600 million annually to our local and state economy; it educates over 12,000 students each year for jobs in the sciences and the arts. And under the leadership of President Miller, the university has become a reliable partner for the city of New Britain in its development planning – and for the entire region as well.”

Following the ceremonial groundbreaking with shovels, guests proceeded to the front of the Elihu Burritt Library to celebrate the completed renovation of the library’s first floor with a ribbon cutting. The two-year, $1 million project created ground-level main entrance and well-lit, airy, welcoming study space, replacing a once dreary, inefficient maze. With students in mind, computer stands were added, along with new carpeting and furniture.

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