

Montclair State solicits bids for campus construction project

By Mary Ann Bourbeau

Montclair State University is accepting construction bids for its new Center for Environmental and Life Sciences building and a new School of Business. The university hopes to break ground this summer and complete the projects by summer of 2015.

"These are urgently needed facilities," said Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole. "We meant it when we said they were shovel-ready, and we want to be poised to go into the ground as soon as the Legislature approves the disbursement of funds."

On April 29, Gov. Chris Christie announced that New Jersey State Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks had sent to the Legislature a list of 176 higher education projects totaling \$1.3 billion. The funds come from the Building Our Future Bond Act, which was approved by New Jersey voters in November 2012. The list of projects includes \$93.8 million to fund Montclair's two new buildings, as well as technology infrastructure upgrades. The projects are expected to create between 700 and 1,000 construction jobs.

"Capital improvements such as these are essential to the future of Montclair State and all of New Jersey's great institutions of higher learning," Cole said in a statement. "With this program, the state has taken a giant step forward to meet the demands of New Jersey's educational needs."

The 107,500-square-foot life sciences



Renderings of the two new buildings planned for Montclair State University. (Photo By Courtesy of Montclair State University)



Susan Cole

building will allow the university to serve more students in its high-demand programs. The \$55 million facility will feature state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories, classrooms and space to accommodate research collaborations with business partners.

"The project will support academic programs and cross-disciplinary research with a focus on sustainability science, pharmaceutical biochemistry and medicinal chemistry," said Robert Prezant, dean of Montclair's College of Science and Mathematics.

The new School of Business, with a \$66 million price tag, will be a 143,000-square-foot building with high-tech classrooms and seminar rooms, a 150-seat lecture hall, executive education space, computer and research labs. It will also house the Feliciano Center for Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Corporate Social Responsibility and space to facilitate the development of regional and global collaborations with the business community.

"This project will allow us truly to be a business school able to meet the 21st-century needs of New Jersey's economy," said E. LaBrent Chrite, dean of Montclair's School of Business.

All received bids will be publicly opened at 10 a.m., June 20, at the Department of Finance and Treasury Conference Room, Suite 101, 855 Valley Road, Clifton. A mandatory pre-bid meeting and site visits will be held at 10 a.m. May 21 on campus in University Hall. Copies of Request for Proposal #1077, which contains all requirements for contractors and subcontractors bidding this work, will be available on or about May 14, at the Office of Procurement Services at 855 Valley Road, Suite 112, Clifton. ■