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Local SUNY projects funded

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By Nancy Buczek
Staff writer

Four local State University of New York colleges and universities have identified projects that will share about \$14.75 million in federal money this year, SUNY officials said Monday.

"The chancellor (SUNY Chancellor Robert King) has always said we'll always need and seek state support, but we also need to look at other sources of funding," said David Henahan, speaking for SUNY.

Congress designated \$33.2 million for SUNY in the 2004 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. That money supports 23 projects at SUNY institutions, including the projects at four local campuses: Cayuga Community College, the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Empire State College and Upstate Medical University.

"The New York congressional delegation has been incredibly supportive of ESF's efforts to improve our world through environmental discovery," Cornelius "Neil" Murphy Jr., ESF president, said in a statement.

In February, Congress passed an \$820 billion catchall measure called an omnibus bill that included much of the

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SUNY money. Henahan said the congressional appropriations do not include money SUNY researchers receive from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation or NASA. In 2002-03, SUNY researchers received \$774.5 million from federal agencies, he said.



Congressional appropriations for SUNY have been increasing, Henahan said. In fiscal year 2003, the federal budget included \$15.3 million for SUNY projects, he said. The 2004 appropriation is a 117 percent increase over last year.

"The fact that SUNY was able to attract substantially more federal funds in an extraordinarily difficult budget year speaks volumes of the quality of research being done by our faculty and the strong effort put forth by our congressional delegation," King said in a statement. "Over the past three years, we have greatly increased SUNY's stature in Washington, D.C."

SUNY began submitting a systemwide request for federal money three years ago, Henahan said. In 2001, congressional appropriations for SUNY were at \$3.4 million, he said.

"The success we are having in Washington is a direct result of the coordinated activities of all our partners in this effort," King said.

King named a number of politicians who have championed SUNY projects, including local political leaders Rep. James Walsh, R-Onondaga; Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y.; and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Local share

Here are local State University of New York projects funded in the current budget year:

Cayuga Community College - Regional Applications Center for the Northeast: \$2 million The center brings the technology, knowledge and applications of Geographic Information Technologies to Central New York. GIT is used to acquire and analyze geographic data.

College of Environmental Science and Forestry

- **Onondaga Creek Habitat Restoration Demonstration Initiative:** \$350,000 The program will look at what needs to be restored in urban sections of Onondaga Creek, identify the best way to restore them and the effects of the restoration.

- **NASA Remote Sensing Project:** \$500,000 The project will improve the state's ability to efficiently operate its forestlands and enhance economic development in environmentally sound ways.

- **Facility Renovations and Improvements in Onondaga Park:** \$250,000 The project will try to revitalize southwest Syracuse by cleaning and restoring upper and lower Onondaga parks and building an educational center that will include a botanical garden, an urban stream and space for classes, exhibits and other facilities.

- **Rural/Suburban Runoff Treatment Project:** \$350,000 The project will examine the effectiveness of contaminant mitigation strategies for rural/suburban runoff affecting water quality along Central New York watersheds.

- **North Country Campus Economic Development and Improvement**

Program: \$350,000 The program will support the acquisition, renovation and construction of facilities for the North Country Campus Economic Development and Improvement Program in Clayton.

- Woody Biomass Applications: \$750,000 The project supports scientific research being done by chemists, structural biologists and forest product experts in biofuels and other new energy-producing techniques to develop the production of woody biomass from salix, a fast-growing species of willow, for use as a renewable energy source.

- Technical Education and Training Components of the SUNY Solar Power as Renewable Energy Program (SPARE): \$100,000 The money will be used to install a photovoltaic system that converts sunlight into electricity, in conjunction with the SUNY Center for Sustainable and Renewable Energy at SUNY-ESF. The SPARE demonstration project includes an education and training partnership with the Syracuse City School District and Onondaga Community College to educate and train economically disadvantaged inner-city and rural youths in the installation, maintenance and operations of photovoltaic power systems.

Empire State College

Online bachelor's degree for emergency management professionals: \$100,000 The program will enable emergency managers throughout the United States to develop security planning and response strategy skills.

Upstate Medical University

Diabetes Education and Telemedicine Project: \$9 million Upstate and Columbia University are part of a coalition of hospitals and centers investigating the feasibility of using telemedicine technology to educate, monitor and deliver care to Medicare patients with diabetes across Upstate.

Center for Emergency Preparedness: \$1 million The center serves the community through educational programs, service activities and research in emergency preparedness. This money will be used to expand center activities and develop technology in the areas of error reduction, telemedicine and wireless communications.

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