



CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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FY 2017



OPENING FALL 2017



Bowie State University
FY 2017 Capital Budget Testimony
Presented by Mickey L. Burnim, Ph.D., President

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On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Bowie State University, I am pleased to support the Governor's capital budget proposal for FY 2017. The FY 2017 budget provides funding for the final phase of construction for Bowie State's new **Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing (CNSMN)**. This project is on-budget and on schedule, and the Bowie State community looks forward to opening this facility for classes in the fall of 2017. We are grateful for the Governor's support of this critically important project and I urge the General Assembly to approve this final phase of funding.

As part of our efforts to become the best comprehensive university in the country, and in support of the state's college completion goals, Bowie State is focused on enrolling more students, diversifying our enrollment, and improving our graduation rate. We have increased the number of undergraduate degrees conferred from 683 in 2011 to 801 degrees conferred in 2015. It is clear that in order for the university to be competitive in attracting outstanding students and faculty, and to meet the growing workforce needs, particularly in STEM and nursing, we must replace our outdated facilities with state-of-the-art ones. Our current Crawford Science Building has been at the top of my priorities for replacement.



The new **Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing** will be approximately 148,995 gross square feet and will house the Departments of Natural Science, Mathematics and Nursing. This new space will replace the inadequate teaching classrooms and laboratories in the Crawford Science Building and will provide state-of-the-art research and instructional laboratories, classrooms and office space for faculty and staff. In addition, we will be able to accommodate our expanding nursing program with more classrooms and provide more laboratories for all undergraduate students who must meet general education science requirements.



The new facility will support strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing teaching in the basic sciences as well as faculty and student research that is at the cutting edge of scientific inquiry. For example, Bowie State has housed one of the few protein crystallography laboratories in the country since 1997. Recently, this laboratory has become a prime collaborator with the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which has allowed our faculty and students to participate in ground-breaking, award-winning research at NCI. While our current laboratory spaces are exceedingly cramped, our enterprising faculty actively pursue research funding that is providing opportunities for our students to participate in a range

of collaborative research experiences. Projects like genomic research aimed at enhancing plant diversity and synthesis of structurally modified agents for intelligent drug design are just two of our many currently active research programs. Indeed, faculty in the natural sciences and mathematics departments



are actively pursuing over \$1.5 million in grants from the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Defense. The new **Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing** will support these research efforts and many more.

The new facility will also foster the kind of collaborations needed to enhance our bioinformatics program, which brings together mathematics and other computational disciplines to analyze biological data. Collaborations such as this are facilitated by collocating mathematics, natural sciences and nursing in one building with shared facilities, resources and programs. The new center will support and catalyze the increasing interdependence of mathematics and natural sciences disciplines.



Programmatic connections between nursing and the natural sciences are important in the first two years of study when nursing students are required to take a heavy load of science and laboratory coursework, and will maximize efficiency in the use of shared lecture and open laboratory space between all three programs. The new center will enable the university to meet its goal of producing highly



skilled, workforce- and teaching-force-ready graduates in the scientific, mathematical, engineering, technological, and professional fields by addressing the current and projected shortfalls in specialized laboratory space.

The new **Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing** will transform our campus. The \$31.5 million requested for FY 2017 will support final construction and equipment costs. These funds will also support the demolition of the Crawford Science Building, to provide more green space on campus, adjacent to our recently opened Student Center. We appreciate your support for this project.

Humanities Building

Our Facilities Master Plan, along with a 2008 functional and systems analysis, calls for the replacement of the outdated Martin Luther King Jr. Communication Arts Center in order to meet current needs and support future growth. Built in 1974 and never renovated, the MLK building houses our Departments of Communications, English and Modern Languages, and History and Government and is woefully inadequate. The problems with this building are numerous:

- Structural problems and cracking floor slabs
- Outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning system
- Antiquated fire alarm system which does not meet ADA standards
- Bathrooms not ADA compliant
- Electrical systems outdated
- Elevator not ADA compliant.
- Small classroom spaces which do not support proper instruction
- Auditorium used for major convocations is too small and is not ADA-compliant



The MLK building supports our humanities program. It is by far our most heavily used academic building. Every student must take general education classes in English, history and communications, so all students use this building. With an enrollment of nearly 5,500 and plans to grow that enrollment, it is critical that we replace this major facility.

The University System of Maryland's Board of Regents has endorsed funding for a new **Humanities Building**, beginning in FY 2018. In addition to the departments listed above, the new building will provide space for the university's Honors Program, media operations, and production space for our radio and television stations which are integral components of the broadcast communications program. Although not included in the Governor's current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), this facility is quite critical for the university. We respectfully request consideration for funding.

Since my arrival at Bowie State University in 2006, we have opened three new buildings: a Center for Business and Graduate Studies; a Fine & Performing Arts Center; and a Student Center (not funded through state funds). Each facility supports important academic and student support programs which are vital to our university. While we are extremely grateful for these additions to the campus footprint, we still have great need, the most immediate of which is the new humanities building.

Future Plans

The university's future CIP submissions will include requests to renovate the vacant Goodloe Apartments to consolidate Department of Public Safety operations; renovate the McKeldin Gymnasium to create a comprehensive Wellness Center; along with renovations to the Thurgood Marshall Library, the Henry Administration Building, and James Physical Education Complex.

Public Safety Facility – (\$3,900,000). Bowie State's Department of Public Safety is currently housed in extremely cramped quarters in the McKeldin Gymnasium with dispatch operations located separately in Robinson Hall. Holding and storage areas are inadequate as are the interior office spaces and locker rooms, which double as storage space. The renovated space will include office space for dispatch, interview rooms and training areas, a holding area, armory, secure evidence and uniform storage and locker rooms. The renovated facility would bring the department in compliance with Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards.

Wellness Center – (\$7,500,000). The University plans to renovate the existing 21,000 gross square foot McKeldin complex to create a state-of-the-art Wellness Center for students, faculty and staff. The facility will include the existing campus health center, currently occupying space in a residence hall, along with a new fitness center to support the health and wellness of the campus community. This facility is critical in the university's efforts to enhance the student

experience by providing high quality services, and to accommodate projected growth in the student population.

Thurgood Marshall Library – (\$63,425,000). As the academic heart of the campus, our current library is woefully out-of-date and does not meet the research and study needs of today's student population where collaboration is increasingly important for student success. The library should be a major gathering place for students to come together for open discussion and debate. It should have a variety of comfortable informal and formal spaces for learning. A modern library will support our efforts to grow our enrollment and enhance student success. Ours is oddly configured and uninviting. Other major problems include the following:

- Outdated building mechanical systems
- ADA access and pedestrian circulation deficiencies
- Administrative space does not meet current state guidelines
- Inadequate HVAC system in the Archives area
- Library stacks area does not meet future library technological needs

Henry Administration Building – (\$75,595,000). In addition to administrative offices, this facility houses essential student service offices such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar and Bursar. The issues include:

- Outdated building mechanical systems
- Inefficient boilers
- Chiller at end of life

James Physical Education Complex – (\$33,040,000). The complex houses our ROTC program as well as our sport management program, in addition to the gymnasium where winter commencements exercises are held. It needs a major renovation to address the following:

- ADA access deficiencies

- Student locker rooms are grossly inadequate
- Classrooms and academic space in need of reconfiguration and upgrades
- Administrative space does not meet current state guidelines
- Boiler replacement
- No building elevator

Conclusion

Bowie State University is poised for growth and positioned to play a major role in meeting the state's college completion and economic development goals. We provide a great higher education value to Marylanders. Indeed, we were recently named the best value in Maryland by *The Economist* magazine, measured by tuition costs, job placement and salary of our graduates. As we work to increase our enrollment, with an emphasis on enhancing diversity, we will look to enroll more transfer students and continue to increase the number of students graduating from Bowie as well as improve our graduation rate. Naturally, our growth and competitiveness depend greatly upon our ability to provide state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces for faculty and students. Your support over the past years has helped us improve the campus infrastructure significantly. We appreciate your continued support.



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