

State Funding for Engineering Center

December 7, 2010

Colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you of exciting news we've received from Lansing. Late last week, lawmakers approved the allocation of \$383 million in capital outlay funds to support projects in university, college and state infrastructure.

As part of this, Oakland University will receive \$30 million in support of a new engineering building on campus. The bill has yet to be signed by Gov. Granholm, but we anticipate her approval will come quickly.

It is important to note that the allocation of this funding represents a tremendous vote of confidence. Specifically, it shows that the state not only sees the wisdom in investing in higher education, but also acknowledges the exceptional work being done by all in the Oakland University community.

With an estimated cost of \$74.6 million, the Oakland University Engineering Center is the highest priority listed in our 2011 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan. The building would provide more than 42,000 square feet of classroom, office and research space for the School of Engineering and Computer Science, as well as 34,201 square feet of assignable general purpose classroom space.

As soon as the governor signs the bill, we will begin the planning process. This will include developing a timeline, gathering input from campus stakeholders and reviewing the means by which we can secure matching funds to support the project. We will provide updates on this process as they become available.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all who have contributed to the development of this proposal. I'd also like to congratulate the university community as a whole for the outstanding work that is supporting our growth as a distinctive and respected educational institution.

Thank you,
Gary