

From the Chancellor's Desktop

April 7, 2004

Dear Colleagues,

We received some excellent news from Lansing last week, when the Joint Capital Outlay Committee of the legislature approved the plans and financing for two major building projects that will enhance our programs in engineering, the natural sciences and science education.

The projects, which include additions to the College of Engineering and Computer Science and to the Science Building, go straight to the heart of the goal of building Michigan's economic future. Education is key to the future of the state, especially in engineering and the sciences, and these projects will allow our campus to continue to contribute to Michigan's prosperity by enhancing the human capital needed to compete in a global economy.

The addition to the College of Engineering and Computer Science will total 46,000 gross square feet and will house the campus's Institute for Advanced Vehicle Systems, dedicated laboratories and engineering classrooms.

The science building addition will allow the expansion of programs in environmental, cellular and molecular sciences, as well as programs to help students become better science teachers in the K-12 system. The U-M Regents approved designs for the buildings in October and January and construction is expected to begin later this year.

Faculty have worked very hard in both natural sciences and in engineering to help guide these projects to the best possible program description to suit the needs of the campus, and we're all grateful to their good work. The proposed buildings will be a very important addition to the educational opportunities we're able to offer on the campus.

We owe thanks to Ed Bagale, vice chancellor for government relations, for his decades of hard work building support for the campus among state policymakers, and to Tom Schlaff, assistant director in the Plant Extension office, who has taken the lead in developing plans for these projects.

In a period when we haven't been hearing much good news from Lansing, the support of the legislature for these projects on our campus is very encouraging, and shows the strong support our campus has earned in the

capital.

Respectfully,

Daniel Little