

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
  
**HIGHER EDUCATION**  
  
and  
  
**ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
  
of the  
  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
  
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, November 28, 2007.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman  
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Tom Barraga  
Legislator Ed Romaine  
Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office  
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office  
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development  
Charles Stein - Suffolk Community College  
George Gatta - Suffolk Community College  
Sean McKay - Executive Dean - Grant Campus SCCC  
William Connors - Executive Dean - Ammerman Campus SCCC  
Yvonne Walters - Executive Dean - SCCC  
James Morgo - Commissioner - Economic Development  
Debra Alloncius - AME  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer.

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:10 P.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we all please stand for a moment of silence for those men and women who are fighting for our freedoms across the sea.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And for Joe Rizzo.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And for Joe Rizzo, absolutely.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Please be seated. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of November 28th, 2007. All right. We have a presentation today by the Suffolk Community College, which is status report for the current fiscal year 2007-'08. Charles Stein, the VP of Business and Financial Affairs, Executive Dean William Connors, Jr, who is the Dean at Ammerman, Dr. Yvonne Walters at Eastern, and Sean McKay at Grant. I'm being consulted here. Chuck, would you mind if we put you after the -- after the agenda. We have an economic development crisis.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Oh, my goodness, you will start a huge rumor with that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Sometimes I overstate. Okay. We're going to move to the Introductory Resolutions. Will Carolyn join us on this? All right. Carolyn, you want to address the committee on those items that you have -- you feel that we should have paid special attention to?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have several resolutions on today. Most of them are for Gabreski Airport, some are downtown. I would just like to go through them quickly, real quick, give you a little bird's eye view of what they are and answer any questions so that we can hopefully move these projects forward. 2122 is authorizing the execution of a grant agreement from New York State. This resolution is appropriating 180 -- no, it's just accepting the grant of \$180,000 from New York State.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Carolyn, just hold on one second. Is it 2122 or is 2121?

**MS. FAHEY:**

2121. Did I say 22? I'm sorry. 2121 is accepting \$180,000 grant from New York State for a noise berm to be constructed along the northeast corner of the airport. It's a grant that was obtained by Tony Ceglie, the airport manager. The County's portion is \$20,000. The resolution just accepts the grant. The appropriating resolution will be submitted once SEQRA is complete. But New York State would like to have that grant contract back shortly.

2173 is for flight line lighting at Gabreski Airport. It's an ongoing Capital Program. Money is

budgeted. 2174 is appropriating funds for tower renovations for some of the structural issues at the tower, nothing major or serious, just ongoing structural renovations. 2176 is for an ongoing airport fencing and security system. This is a continuation of an ongoing project that will bring our fencing to secure the airport, again, on the north and the eastern portion of the airport.

The next two resolutions, 2195 and 2196, are the downtown program. We would like for you to table these resolutions today. We have some issues with the funding language that was in there. They're being amended and will be returned to you for the next committee cycle. Just bring attention to 2195, that is the County Executive's Capital Program. 2196 is the Legislature's traditional Downtown Revitalization Program. As in years past, the Downtown Citizens Advisory Panel solicited applications for this money. There's \$500,000 in the '07 budget for them to allocate and make recommendations to the Legislature.

Yours shows their recommendations, but because of what the Downtown Citizens Advisory Panel has done with the Legislature's program; it has taken to that merit-based, that scoring system for recommendations, the County Executive took his Capital Program, the \$500,000, and asked the same panel to make recommendations to him. The applications that were submitted based upon the Legislature's program totaled about \$2.4 million worth of application requests. The Legislature's program had 500,000, the County Executive's program has 500,000. He asked them to use those applications and make recommendations to him for submittal to the Legislature also. He recognizes that this panel has really brought this program forward. And it was important for them to understand and have a say in how he spent his money as well as having the recommendation to the Legislature on their end. So what you'll --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's always good to see the Legislature and the County Executive working together hand in glove.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Next resolution, 2217, is authorizing a lease with Long Island Jet Center at Gabreski Airport. This is going to be the first lease that this Legislature sees underneath the new rules and regulation of the Charter. As you are aware, in years past, the Airport Lease Screening Committee had authority to approve leases, and they did not come before this Legislature. This is the first lease that you're going to see. So we will answer questions on that if you would like.

And then the last resolution I'd like to see discussed today is the one that's tabled subject to call, 1828. You should have an amended version of that resolution. As you might recall, back in the summer, the department received a grant for the runway rehabilitation at Gabreski Airport. The County's portion of that grant was about \$4500. The resolution that was submitted to the Legislature has us bonding that money. The Legislature obviously has an issue with that, sent it back to the Budget Office, they amended the resolution to find General Funds to cover the County's portion of that grant. So the amended version you have in front of you transfers money, I believe, from DPW's budget into transfers to the Capital Program to cover the County's portion of about \$4050.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

If you'll recall, my fellow colleagues, that was the -- that was the issue where the \$4500 or whatever the dollar amount was was said -- was requested to come out of the Legislative Fund.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Right. I remember that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's apparently been changed.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And what's it coming out of now, DPW?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

DPW, is that where it's coming out of?

**MS. FAHEY:**

I believe so, yes. I think there is -- I'm looking at the resolution -- it's transferring money from Public Works -- - yeah, Public Works.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

If I may, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Please.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Originally this offset was to come out of a sound wall that was to be, I believe, in Legislator Caracappa's district. Is this the same allocation? Is this coming from a different location?

**MS. FAHEY:**

It's coming from their Operating Budget.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Public Works Operating Budget, which obviously could not be used for sound wall.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Right.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

That's a capital expense.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Correct.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So they have -- how much money is this involving, Carolyn?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Four thousand fifty-four dollars.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Oh, right. Okay. And they, I assume, can get that out of their Operating Budget. They'll probably be one of the lucky few departments that can do that in the years ahead.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We'll let that one fly overhead. Maybe Budget Review might just, you know, give us a little -- a little review of that whole transaction. My recollection, it was coming out of Legislative dollars, and I'm not sure it was the sound wall. But that's -- maybe you can give us an update.

**MR. MUNCEY:**

The last time I looked at it -- and I don't actually have that information in front of me -- but it was a transfer from the budget of the Legislature to fund this program. Originally, it was -- and still is -- I'm sorry. It was adopted to be bonded. Instead, the Executive resolution changed that from bonding to General Fund, and the General Funds were coming out of the Legislature. Looking at the amended copy as of October 31st of this year, it doesn't do it from the Legislature no longer. Now it takes it, as Carolyn had mentioned, from the Operating Budget of DPW. It is \$4054.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And the reason why we had placed it to be subject to call was because of -- because the nature in which they were taking the dollars from. So that was our criticism of it. Just to give everybody an update on that. All right. Carolyn, anything else you would like to --

**MS. FAHEY:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Great. That was very concise. All right. We'll call those Introductory Resolutions now.

**2111, Appoint member to the Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees (Avette D. Ware). (Pres. Off.)**

Avette, you want to come up and visit us for a minute?

**MS. WARE:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Welcome. I had the pleasure of being on the screening committee for Ms. Ware. And I've got to tell you, I was very much impressed by her -- her energy and her desire to make Suffolk Community College a better place. And she is one of our student representatives. Why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself.

**MS. WARE:**

Sure. I began as a student trustee after attending the college as a student in the American Sign Language Program. I have the honor and privilege of being elected twice to serve as student trustee on the Board of the Trustees. So I would like to continue the work I began. I don't know if you have any particular questions for me.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Yes. You have an impressive resume. And I have heard very good things about you. My one question -- I'll preface that by saying thank you for coming forward to serve on a voluntary basis in this very important position. But with that goes hand in hand, of course, once you volunteer and you have the position, it becomes another job. And would you have the time to devote to this very important position?

**MS. WARE:**

Absolutely. I am a real estate broker, so I have flexible hours. I don't have a locked in 9:00 to 5:00. And I have continually been active involving the college straight through till now, so I will make sure that that continues.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Are there any other questions from my colleagues? Again, thank you for coming down here today and spending time with us. And we -- I believe I can prematurely wish you well.

**MS. WARE:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's good to see you on the board.

**MS. WARE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May I have a motion to approve?

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

**2121, Authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with New York State Department of Transportation, Aviation Bureau in connection with airport improvements (noise berm). (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. So moved. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

**2173, Appropriating funds in connection with replacement of flightline lighting at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (CP 5711). (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion by Legislator Stern.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

**2174, Appropriating funds in connection with the tower renovations at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (CP 5709). (Co. Exec.)**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? So

moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

**2176, Appropriating funds in connection with the airport fencing and security system at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (CP 5721). (Co. Exec.)**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Stern makes a motion to approve, seconded by -- I'll make the second. On the motion, all in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

**2195, Allocating funds in connection with downtown beautification and renewal (CP 6418). (Co. Exec.)**

It's been requested from Economic Development to table this because of a bonding issue.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

So moved.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Is that true, George? Do you know anything about this?

**MR. NOLAN:**

No.

**MS. FAHEY:**

These programs are being bonded this year. They're not reflected that way in the adopted Capital Program, so that needs to be amended and reflected showing there's a change in the funding source.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yes. Legislator Romaine.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes. Questions on resolution, if I may. How were they funded in past years?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Both programs were funded through General Fund money, General Fund transfers.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. And I don't want to put you in the spot. If there's a representative from Executive's Office, possibly they could answer why the Executive chose to bond this money as opposed to using operating money. I mean, I'm always in favor of whenever we can pay-as-you-go and keep our debt down. I'm just curious why we're bonding this at this time when the past practice has been to do it from our Operating Budget. And I'd like to find if in our 2007 Operating Budget there were monies set aside for this purpose. And if the Executive's Office can't answer, possibly our Budget Review Office can answer the questions that I just raised.

**MS. FAHEY:**

I can answer a portion of that, and I'll let the County Executive's Office discuss why the bonding issues was -- made the final determination. In the past, the Citizens Advisory Council has reviewed applications on an annual basis for very small type projects; garbage pails, lighting, signage, street benches, seasonal flags that they would put on. They had requested that they start looking at more major projects, that this program, the Legislature's program, be used to fund long-term -- long-term impact type programs; sidewalks, lighting, things of more infrastructure-type nature.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Sidewalks --

**MS. FAHEY:**

Lighting, street lighting.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. My understanding is that most towns have lighting districts. My understanding is that sidewalks are usually the responsibility of town governments even on County roads.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Those are the type of projects that this program has funded over the last five or six years. And we're kind of going --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Let me just understand by asking some questions, if I could. So let's just take those two items that you mentioned; street lighting, which usually is a town expenditure or village depending on where the project is located, because most towns have town-wide lighting districts, number one. And number two, sidewalks -- even on County roads, sidewalks are town responsibilities. So we're now going to take County money to fund town responsibilities; is that correct?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Those type of projects have been funded all along. The street lighting that the downtown panel has funded is more of an aesthetic change. The towns will put in the major big overhead lighting. These are more aesthetic period-type lighting to add some sort of character to the downtown to maybe distinguish it from the outlying areas. The same with the sidewalks. The outlying areas might have your basic concrete, but when you get into the downtown area in order to create a sense of place and an identity, they're looking different types of sidewalks; brick sidewalks and such.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Those are permissible now for the towns to do under their current programs. And in fact, many towns not only use town funds, they use community development funds to do that. I mean, I was doing that 27 years ago.

**MS. FAHEY:**

This program is used in conjunction with all that other funding. They bring some of that funding to the table as the leveraged money. This ends up being a part of the overall project. Community development funds, State grants are all coupled in with these projects. One of the criteria for the application is that they bring a lot of money to the table, that they leverage this money in order to get a project done with other funding. Community development funding is a significant portion of these projects.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Thank you. With the Chairman's indulgence, let me ask Budget Review now. Was money set aside in the 2007 Operating Budget for downtown revitalization? And if so, how much?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

To my knowledge there's no money set aside in the General Fund for the downtown project.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Was there money set aside in previous years for downtown revitalization in the Operating Budget since they were funded out of the Operating Budget in previous years?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

In previous years, there was a different funding stream -- General Funds, yes, set aside for downtown programs.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So in previous years in the Operating Budget money was set aside. But knowing that this project was going on, no money was set aside in the 2007 General Operating Budget; is that correct?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

It's my understanding that that would be correct.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And now at the end of the year, we're coming forward to looking to bond. And what is the amount that we're looking to bond?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

Well, each program; 6412 and 6418 --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

What's the total number that we would bond under this resolution?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

Well, each one is separate, so each one is 500,000.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And how many -- how many are we talking about?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

Two. It would be a total of a million dollars.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

How much?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

A million.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

One million dollars. So we have two recipients; is that correct?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

No. Carolyn can probably explain it better. The panel looks at different projects in different downtown areas based on a merit -- based system. There's leverages required. Not one single person, they're multiple entities that would receive the funding.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May I interrupt, if you would suffer the indulgence?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Absolutely. Let me turn the chair to you, sir.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. My recollection -- myself and Legislator Barraga were both thinking the same -- the issue, that we've discussed this before. Are you sure that last year monies weren't bonded as well?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

I'd have to take a look, because it's changed over the years.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I think we had this discussion with Jim Morgo. It's all coming back to us now. We've been here, Mr. Romaine.

**MS. FAHEY:**

I think the discussion you're recalling is from Capital Program. When we presented the Capital Program, we talked at that time that it was going to be bonded.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Oh, it was the Capital Budget and this is --

**MS. FAHEY:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

But they were bonded. But the question would be that they were bonded.

**MS. FAHEY:**

That we were going to bond, correct.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Either way, do we have a motion on this yet? I don't believe we do.

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to table by Legislator Stern. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

**TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

**2196, Allocating downtown revitalization funds (Phase VII) and appropriating the 2007 Downtown Revitalization Funds in connection with the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Program (CP 6412). (Co. Exec.)**

Also same -- same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. They've both been **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

**2217, Authorizing the lease of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport to L.I. Jet Center East, Inc. for the construction, operation and maintenance of a fixed-based operation. (Co. Exec.)**

I have a quick question on that, if I may. I'll ask the question before we set in the motion. Does this get us out of and into the black, this lease?

**MS. FAHEY:**

We hope. No, not this particular lease. LI Jet Center is a current tenant at the airport. The new lease just extends their term, but it allows them to expand somewhat. So overall, the net to the County is going to be about 45, \$4600 more on an annual basis. So, no, it's not going to. But if you couple this -- just to expand a little bit -- along with the 60 to \$70,000 worth of leases that you should be seeing in the next four or five months from the airport, those two coupled along with the development of the industrial park, within a year and a half, I would hope that we are close to if not over that line, which is our goal. You know, we want the airport to be self-sufficient.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's great, yes. And we're anxiously awaiting the black -- Black Tuesday or something like that, where we are actually into the black at Gabreski Airport. Yes. Legislator Vilorio-Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. As you know, we in CEQ had looked at the Jet Center construction and the

plans, etcetera. And if I recall, there was also a place for Hertz Rent-A-Car, wasn't there, in that plan? Now, is that a separate lease, or are they leasing from Jet Center?

**MS. FAHEY:**

It's separate.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

It's separate. And when will we see that?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

It's being worked on right now in the County Attorney's Office.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And was there a third entity involved or was it just LI Jet and Hertz?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

The last time we met at CEQ?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Yes.

**MR. CEGLIO:**

There was another project, I just don't recall what it was.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. All right. They will all come before us? Even if it's a smaller lease, it will come before us?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Yes.

**MS. FAHEY:**

And it will come before you after the environmental is done. As you're aware, the County Executive creates the Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel. It's the community group that's reviewing all the applications prior to going to CEQ and then being forwarded on to the Legislature. The secretary of that panel is supposed to be here today to express the panel's support for the LI Jet lease. They've reviewed it, they've discussed it, and they have supported the full execution of the lease.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

We did the environmental on this already.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Yes. The environmental is done. You won't see these leases until the environmentals are done.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Why do I seem to recall some discussion here -- I don't sit on that committee -- concerning the expansion itself? Was the expansion too great for the concerns of some people out there?

**MS. FAHEY:**

I think the discussion you're recalling is at the full Legislature. When the first CEQ recommendation

was brought in front of the full Legislature, there were some concerns that it wasn't reviewed as extensively as it should have been by the community. The Presiding Officer sent that recommendation back to CEO and said take a look at it. In the interim, the airport management and LI Jet Center reviewed the proposal and decided to downscale it to bring it down to something that's a little bit more compatible with the community, that the community --

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

How much of a downscale was it?

**MS. FAHEY:**

It went from just over ten acres to about 7.5.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

For the expansion?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And the square footage?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Currently they lease over five acres. They lease about five acres, and they have about 8600 square feet worth of -- in one building. They're going to 7.5 acres with a total of 26,800 square feet in two buildings.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

That's, like, triple the size?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Right. But the original plan was way more extensive.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And what's the perimeters of the lease? How long is the lease?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Forty years.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And what's the rate?

**MS. FAHEY:**

The annual rate is 101,500 on an annual basis for the base rent. They're going to be leasing on a temporary basis about a half acre, which will bring about another \$4500, and then there is a commission that the County receives on the fuel sales and an overall commission.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

What were they paying on the original square footage?

**MS. FAHEY:**

About 85,900.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And it goes to 101.

**MS. FAHEY:**

A hundred and one, yes.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And it's triple the area?

**MS. FAHEY:**

No. The acreage that they're leasing, because they lease the raw acreage, it goes from five to seven and a half.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

The buildings. You said it's 8600 square foot of living space or -- is the building 8600 square feet and it's going to 26,000 square feet?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Correct. But it's the acreage that --

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

And it goes from 85,000 to 101,000.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Right.

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Can I jump in?

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

So it's triple the square footage, but they're only paying an additional 16,000 a year?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Well, right now -- right now they're leasing an existing County building. The additional square footage, 22,000 square foot of hangar space and 4000 square feet of office space is being built by LI Jet Center at their own cost. And I guess for that, we're giving -- requesting a 40 year lease for them to amortize their investment. The additional amount is based on the additional lands that they're going to lease, the additional two and a half acres, at an appraisal rate of about \$10,000 an acre.

**MS. FAHEY:**

The additional square footage is being built on land that they currently lease, so they're paying for that already.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Thank you.

**MS. FAHEY:**

You're welcome.

**LEG. STERN:**

Quick question.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yes. Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

It's going from five acres to a total of seven and a half acres, or is that in addition to?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Total.

**LEG. STERN:**

That's total, it's now going to be the seven and a half acres. And there's escalation built into the lease?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Yes. Two and a half percent a year. And in addition to that, every ten years the property, according to the lease, gets reappraised. And in addition to the two and a half percent, it could get adjusted up based on current market rates.

**LEG. STERN:**

And with that is a percentage of fuel sales, did you say?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Right. The interesting part about that is currently they pay about two cents a gallon on about a million gallons a year. We're going to a more common rate among airports on Long Island, about five cents a gallon. That also can get adjusted by two cents a gallon every three years. So there is a process for escalation in that also.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Are there any further questions from the Legislature? All right. I'll make a motion to approve this lease agreement, seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

In the negative.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

List me as an abstention.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. The motion carries, 3-1-1. **APPROVED (VOTE:3-1-1-0 - Opposed - Legis. Barraga - Abstentions - Legis. Romaine)**

Congratulations to you on your years of effort on this issue. And to Mr. McShane in the back, congratulations to you as well. It's been a long haul. All right.

**2223, Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for a grant award from the U.S. Department of Education for a Federal Work-Study Program 100% reimbursed by Federal Funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG STERN:**

Motion to approve.

Motion to approve and be placed on the Consent Calendar. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

**2227, Amending prior Capital authorized appropriating for the replacement of unsafe tennis courts - planning (CP 2170.110) to the replacement of unsafe tennis courts - construction (CP 2170.310). (Co. Exec.)**

Motion to approve and a second by Legislator Barraga. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

Okay. We're moving down to the Tabled Subject To Call.

**1828, Amending Adopted Resolution No. 703-2007, to appropriate General Funds for Capital Project 5739. (Co. Exec.)**

Apparently from what Ms. Fahey has requested and our Department of Economic Development, they would like to undo it subject to call nature, and then issue it as an approval. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

**MS. FAHEY:**

Thank you, everyone. Have a great day.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. At this point in time, I'd like to call up the college; Chuck Stein, the eminent Chuck Stein for a status report on the current fiscal year.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, members of the committee. We'd like to thank you for your continued support of the college. And we're here today to discuss our status as of the fall semester for the 2007-2008 Year. We also want to touch on where we're looking toward the future. Overall, we'd like to report that the fall semester enrollment is up. Our revenues are --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's contrary to our earliest reports.

**MR. STEIN:**

Well, I'll get to that in a moment.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay.

**MR. STEIN:**

Our revenue is higher than the adopted budget. Our expenses are projected to be under budget. With respect to enrollment, we are the largest Community College in the SUNY system in New York State. And as of the fall certified head count report, we have 22,092 students, which represents a 22.4% increase in head count in the last seven years.

Overall, the FTE increase for the fall semester was 1.99%, but that has two components. The full-time FTEs are up 3.57%, while the part-time FTEs are down 1.7%. That's an important distinction. Students who take 12 credits or 15 credits or 18 credits as full-time students pay the same tuition. Part-time students that take three, six or nine credits pay by the credit. So it's important to note the distinction between the full time and part time.

With respect to the budget aspect, the budget was adopted with a slight imbalance of \$759,000, appropriations were higher than revenue by that amount. We've been working to address that. As of the end of October, our estimated revenue is about \$151,000 over budget. Our estimated expenditures, about 481,000 under budget, which makes up most of that \$759,000 figure. And we're pretty confident we'll be able to address the remainder shortly.

We'd like to discuss some activities, including the energy initiative, diversifying our funding base, cost saving initiatives that we go through, our new administrative system, and then we want to touch upon capital and security issues. The Legislature, in the adoption of our budget, included

some money for an energy curriculum development program. On November 2nd, we had the first session focusing on energy awareness and conservation. And we're happy that that group met and had attendees from Farmingdale Faculty, Suffolk Community Faculty, we had teachers from the William Floyd School District, and even Joe Schroeder from the Budget Review Office also attended.

The program talked about developing Building Analyst curriculum for contractors and home renovators. And the attendees do have the option of completing the remainder of the course in December. And this was the first session, and we're going to continue to expand on this. With respect to our funding base, as you know, we've entered into agreements with seven hospitals. And other a six-year agreement period, it will result in \$4.4 million from those hospitals into the college. We now have the largest nursing program in the New York State, and I will say the best. And we have expanded seats for those hospitals.

As we go through our normal activities, we monitor our enrollment. One of things that we've noticed is -- before we discuss the drop in enrollment -- the biggest single category where we saw a drop in enrollment was in the 36 to 50 year old age group. And that has many implications, and we're studying it, and I'm sure that the County's Planning Department is also studying it as it has an impact overall. We always want to make sure that our programs that are offered provide viability, economic viability, we compare to other schools as to the programs we offer, and we adjust accordingly.

Over the years, we've been very actively involved with NYPA. This was as a result of a BRO recommendation some years ago, that we work with NYPA. We've gotten over \$600,000 in rebates over the last six years, we've avoided 1.2 million in costs over the last four years. We also review all of our operations. We've eliminated mailings, everything is online. We save money there. We've changed our banking services, saving money there. We store resumes electronically. We do reviews of our classrooms to ensure that we're maximizing the utilization of them. That's provided us with additional savings. And also, we look to grant funding wherever we can to help us with our equipment.

We are implementing the banner system, which is an Enterprise Resource Planning System. We've been discussing that with the Legislature. It's a multi-year project. And it's progressing, and this will certainly increase our operational effectiveness at the college.

And with your assistance here at the Legislature, our Capital Program is moving forward. Our Learning Resource Center at the Eastern Campus, Workforce Development Building at Grant and the Science and Technology Building at Ammerman are moving forward in their design. And our Executive Deans will talk about that in a few moments. And by you including the Learning Resource Center, Sagtikos Building renovation project, East Campus Health and Sports Facility and college-wide system in the Capital Program, we have been able to secure from the State inclusion in it's new five year Capital Program. So thank you, it worked.

Also, the BRO recommendations with the Capital Program last year suggested that we adjust the inflation factor for the capital projects, and we will be incorporating that into our capital requests. We will also be looking at critical infrastructure and safety needs. Among them, based upon the tragic events at Virginia Tech this past year, all colleges are looking at their safety programs. And we will be looking to provide a loud speaker communication system at the campuses for emergency situations. What I'd like to do now is ask the individual Executive Deans to give you some information on what's happening at their campuses.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Is it possible to ask you questions first?

**MR. STEIN:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you, Chuck, for that presentation. I just have a couple of questions. When you discussed the enrollment, how do these numbers compare with the numbers that we received when we were deliberating the budget for the college?

**MR. STEIN:**

When we proposed the budget --

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Right.

**MR. STEIN:**

-- we looked for a 1% increase in full-time faculty, as we said we would remain even on the part time -- I'm sorry, not faculty, students.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Yeah. The FTEs.

**MR. STEIN:**

FTE enrollment. We were looking at a 1% increase for full time and even with part time. And the budget was adopted with -- after BRO recommendations -- an with overall increase, I think it was about 2%.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Two percent is what I recall.

**MR. STEIN:**

Something along those lines overall. So the fact that on a combined basis we're at 1.99, it pretty much ties in very closely --

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

So then our projection was pretty -- almost on the mark.

**MR. STEIN:**

Pretty close. Of course, we still have intersession, spring and summer. So, you know, right now the numbers we have here are only based upon the fall.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It was Mr. Sabatino's that were off, if you remember.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Right. But I just wanted to compare it with what we actually adopted. The other thing was I'm fascinated by the energy training that you're talking about with NYSERDA and all of the other components. Was there's HERS training, do you know? I was hoping that Joe Schroeder would still be here. You know the HERS training where you do the energy auditing? Do you know the answer?

**MR. MUNCEY:**

Joe will be right back.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay.

**MR. STEIN:**

I would defer to Joe. I was not at the session, and I know Joe was.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. And the third question I had, referring to the Virginia Tech tragedy and how different campuses have been responding to that, it seemed to me that when -- for example, when St. Johns had an event that occurred there that it wasn't a loudspeaker, but rather a telephone system where they were able to text message the kids on their cell phones that was more effective because -- well, we don't have a dormitory-style campus, but I know in dormitory campuses, the kids are inside their rooms, they don't want them to leave their rooms or they don't want them to come on to the campus. So they use a text messaging system rather than a loudspeaker.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you for raising that issue. One of the things that we have been advised by all security experts, including Suffolk County Police Department, is it's important to have redundancy in terms of notification systems. We have joined the New York Alert System. And as a matter of fact, we're having a test of that system on Monday, whereby everyone who's registered -- and we have posters all over the place, including our home page, you'll see, "Please Register," you can register your home phone, your cell phone, your texting, all forms of communication. And we're going to test it on Monday. And there are going to be beepers, phones and everything else going off all over the place with that. It's a wonderful system. And it's provided by New York State, so it worked out very well. In addition, we've had a desktop review with the Suffolk --

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Now when you say "provided," provided free?

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay.

**MR. STEIN:**

We've had a desktop review with the Suffolk County Police Department and representatives of the FBI where we went through a mock situation, and we've done that. We are also utilizing our VOIP phone system, which we've tested, whereby we can have a universal announcement go out. The phones actually act as a speaker. It doesn't cover the whole campus, you know, central courtyards and everything else, which is why we're going to be looking for loudspeakers. The point is we've taken many, many steps to conform to all of the recommendations of all the experts. Redundancy is important. So we feel -- you're never totally sure, but we feel we've taken significant steps.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. Joe, thanks for coming back. I just had a question about the energy conservation training. When I looked at the LIPA website, you know, they have HERS as one of the training systems, you know, for the auditing, energy audits. Do you know is this covered HERS training as well?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Actually, this program that was offered at the Community College was a train-the-trainer session for a new program that was developed at Hudson Valley Community College in conjunction with NYSEDA and LIPA. It's an alternative home inspection program, building inspection program, if you will. So it seems to be what's going to be the successor to the HERS Program here.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And then would those auditors be auditors who could go out and do the inspections for the different municipalities that are requiring the energy efficient homes, such as Brookhaven and Babylon?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Yeah. My understanding is that LIPA will be subscribing to these inspectors for the programs that, I guess, are yet to be announced, the successor programs to the clean energy initiative.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I see. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you, Legislator. Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Hi, Chuck. I don't know if you can answer this question, and it's not a criticism. But when the County Executive submitted his budget for the college, I read the preamble, which is an indication of how my life has gone in what direction. But during the course of reading it, one thing that jumped off the sheet, you have 22,000 students, yet the graduation rate in Suffolk Community College is 20%. When I saw that figure I questioned it, because I said, "Well, you know, it looks low," and it is low, but you have all sorts of different programs. And I knew the graduation rate at SUNY, for example is 65%, and that often with the student going for a Bachelors and taking six years. At County it's 55%.

So I requested from the State Education Department the graduation rates of every community college in the State of New York. And 20% was about average. I mean, there were some at 15, 16, the was around 27, 28%. And the question is -- and maybe the Executive Deans might want to mull this over -- how do you increase the graduation rates to the point -- I'm talking about graduating and getting a degree? I mean, there are many people that come in and take a course or two. But the reality is when you go to an employer and he asks you, "You have an Associates Degree?" If the answer is no, I mean, what was the point of taking the courses? I mean, it's very important to get that Associates Degree. Now, I know there are many reasons and many different programs why people don't wind up with an Associates Degree, but it would seem to me -- most of the time, I think most people when they think of a community college they think of an Associates Degree. "I can send my child there to get an Associates Degree." But that 20% is seems very, very low for all community colleges. All right. Good.

**MR. STEIN:**

I'm going to start off and answer, and the Executive Deans are going to address it as well. You are absolutely correct, people come to a community college for a whole host of reasons unlike a four -- year institution. There are students who come in with the sole purpose and goal of taking two or three courses and then moving on to a four-year school. And community colleges are a different institution. They have a niche, which is different than your four-year institution.

And I think your analysis that you talked about in terms of all community colleges and what the graduation rate is reflect the fact that the community colleges have a different niche. And now, that doesn't mean graduation isn't encouraged, and that will be discussed by the Executive Deans. We have graduated 100,000 people over the years. So there are many individuals who are graduates of the school. And I think having said all of that, what I'd like to do is allow the Executive Deans to make a presentation as to their campuses. And they will address those issues.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Because someone who is not versed in Higher Education, when they see that percentage, that comes across as a real negative. And it's used by some as a negative in making, you know, the case that maybe you don't need as much money or you don't need this, you don't need that, because look at the results here.

**MR. STEIN:**

There are definitely programs looking at retention and graduation rates.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Legislator Barraga, if I can just address that for a minute. I think that it goes beyond just State data. I think if you look at the national data, that is the national data that is expected of community colleges. The other part of it is, again, our transfer rate is almost 65% transfer out of the college going into the four year. So again, when you look at it as well, while the four year may have a 65% graduation rate, the first -- let's say the first 50 credits from Suffolk, and the 65% transfer rate is going towards that four-year degree.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Are they transferring before the get Associates? Is that the case?

**MR. MCKAY:**

Yes.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

They don't stick for the second year and get the degree first and then move on?

**MR. MCKAY:**

No. What you're finding in our enrollment data if you look at the career numbers, you look at those who enroll and indicate that they're going to transfer, that's a higher number. So again, you are right. I mean, you will see 22%, but however, you look at the workforce development piece, you look at the career tracks -- our career also should be looked at, because those are the AAS Degrees that those students do go into the workforce right away. So you have a myriad of different discussions there. But I think the important one is that our transfer rate is 65% percent.

**MR. CONNORS:**

If I could also add, Legislator Barraga, while we certainly encourage our students to receive their Associates Degree, there is so much competition here on Long Island with the four-year colleges who are enticing and encouraging them to transfer there offering financial aid and scholarship packages before they get their degree.

**MR. STEIN:**

With that, I'd like to ask Bill Connors -- unless there is another question.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I do have a question.

**MR. STEIN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. The question is yesterday we saw in the paper -- maybe it was this morning, I'm not sure, the days kind of run together -- where we see that both the enrollment and the tuition is rising in the SUNY schools. Thinking I know the answer before you even speak, but I would like you to just give us an analysis to where we're going and the affordability of the community college, etcetera.

**MR. STEIN:**

As always, I'm very pleased to report that Suffolk Community College has the lowest tuition of any institution in Nassau or Suffolk County. The proposal that was sent by SUNY after it was approved by the Board of Trustees yesterday to the Governor's division of budget talks about an increase at the State-operated campuses. And it was a 5% increase in the tuition level. It's also a starting point in terms of their discussions in the budget process. Whether or not it remains at 5%, obviously it has to go through the process, and we'll see where that goes.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We've been there there before.

**MR. STEIN:**

You know, I'd rather let them comment on it. But there are a number of issues that were proposed by SUNY including a proposal for an increase to community college aid, but it's very early in the process. SUNY also is quick to note that Wall Street hasn't done as well as was anticipated possibly some of the money that's going to flow to the State will be a little lower than what was anticipated. So I think it's going to be a long time between now and April 1st when the State budget is approved. And we have to wait and see what happens.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

But as the proposal on the table right now is 5% increase cost to the student, Suffolk is certainly well under that benchmark. We are, as you say, the most affordable in town.

**MR. STEIN:**

For quality.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There you go, for quality.

**MR. STEIN:**

I'd like to --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Stern had a quick question.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes.

**LEG. STERN:**

Along those lines. The transfer rate was that 65% number. Clearly, I'm glad we're reiterating the fact that it's not apples to apples, and you do have to look at the mission of the college and the students that come for various reasons and the programs that they participate in for various reasons. There's the Honors Program. Would you know what the transfer rate is for those students that have participated in your Honors Program?

**MR. CONNORS:**

I would guess it's close to 100%.

**LEG. STERN:**

I would have to think so, right.

**MR. CONNORS:**

And they transfer to among the best schools in the country.

**LEG. STERN:**

NYU, Columbia, Cornell --

**MR. CONNORS:**

Correct.

**LEG. STERN:**

-- GW, Penn, all outstanding institutions.

**MR. CONNORS:**

We have over 600 students currently on our Honors Program at the college on all three campuses.

**LEG. STERN:**

Yeah. Of course, what I consider to be one of the best institutions in the world, Tulane University, is on that transfer list as well.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Just to add to that as well, over the last semester -- we'll talking more about other college programs later on, but even in the high schools, when we have students that come to the campus and take credits -- and they can leave with between nine to 32 credits, and I'll talk about that later -- we had students in that program, straight from high school now, that went to NYU, Syracuse, Stony Brook, Farmingdale, Adelphi, CUNY Bronx, St. Johns. And we had one that just got funded at 100% through Cooper's Union. So, again, there's other ways in which -- again, when we talk about graduation rates and success rates, we would not see those numbers on the other end. But there's a whole bunch of variables and data that we have to look at as well.

**LEG. STERN:**

Is that the dual enrollment program that you were talking about?

**MR. MCKAY:**

Yes, it is.

**LEG. STERN:**

How many students participate in that program?

**MR. MCKAY:**

Right now -- tomorrow in fact, we have 100 students coming from Deer Park that will be visiting the campus on that initiative. Right now, we have Brentwood, Babylon, CI, Deer Park, Bay Shore, and those are all on this end. The other Deans will speak about their community as well. In the Early College Program we're looking at right now 120 students, and that's without any expansion. In January, we're bringing CI on board for juniors and seniors. So, again, that number is going to continue to increase. For the Excelsior Program, which is a program that is going to be taught in the high schools itself, that was just recently launched. So what you're going to see as well is another expansion of students that will have college level credit as they get ready to transfer or graduate from the high school.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Are there any further questions?

**MR. STEIN:**

Moving to Bill Connors, he's going to start talking about things that are happening at the Ammerman Campus.

**MR. CONNORS:**

Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to share with you some of the challenges and accomplishments of the Ammerman Campus. This past fall with your support, the Ammerman Campus enrolled more than 12,500 credit seeking students. And this represented an FTE, full-time equivalent increase of 4.1% over the Fall 2006 Semester. We're very proud of that.

At the Ammerman Campus, we address the needs of our large and increasingly diverse students population through more and better assessment, through strategic planning, careful resource allocation, and through the tireless efforts of our fine faculty, staff and administration. Over the past year, the numbers of our learning community have responded to campus needs by expanding both our credit and continuing education offerings to reflect the academic, occupational and personal needs of our students. We have revitalized and expanded our Adult Learner Program to attract and assist our returning adults, delivered a rigorous English as a Second Language Program, and carefully used resources to update learning environments with leading edge technology and appropriate up-to-date furnishings.

We are especially pleased of the expansion of our International Study Program. Students studied abroad in Spain and Italy last summer, and next summer, we plan to have students study in China. We have also completed another year of our innovative College Success Program and reached out to increase our partnership with high school programs in our service area, as Dr. McKay had mentioned.

To improve, enhance and enlarge our academic offerings, we have expanded the use of an academic advisory councils, seeking more input from our local and regional business community, expanded course offerings designated as part of Honors Program, expanded the number of course offerings available through the Distance Education Program, we're now one of the largest offers of distance education within the SUNY system, increased our use of community learning sites, including expanding offerings at the Sayville Downtown Center, and continue to work with four year colleges and universities to develop strong transfer opportunities through new or revised articulation agreements.

Another important area we focused on in 2007 was enhancing the Ammerman Campus environment. Our overriding goals were to create a campus learning community that was safe, secure, productive and attractive for students, employees and visitors alike. As mentioned by Vice President Stein earlier, we are very pleased to report the completion of Phase I of the Veterans Plaza Project, which has provided the Ammerman Campus with a beautiful bell tower center to our campus.

Likewise, we have added to the major environment through the completion of major renovations in the Islip Arts Building, Brookhaven Gym, Babylon Student Center and Smithtown Science Buildings, improved the campus infrastructure with new roofs, air conditioning and ventilation systems, and are in the final stages of completing a new running track for academic, extracurricular and community use. And clearly we are very excited about the prospect of adding a new Science, Technology and Classroom Building to our campus by 2011. This, I might add, will be the first new classroom building constructed at the Ammerman Campus since 1972 when we opened the Southampton building.

In closing, on behalf of the faculty, staff, administration and especially the students of the Ammerman Campus, I would like to thank you in the Legislature who have supported us throughout the years. As we continue with the Eastern and Grant Campus reports, I would like to end by highlighting two special accomplishments that our three campuses participated in during the past year. We had the first combined one-college graduation exercise as well as the first one-college accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Thank you for your very kind attention. And I'd like to now introduce the Executive Dean of the Eastern Campus, my colleague, Dr. Yvonne Walters.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I'm going to interrupt you again.

**MR. CONNORS:**

Sure.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Just very quickly, because I want to ask each one of you, what is the utilization in the Ammerman Campus? I mean, are you up 90% saturated or what -- because I know that --

**MR. CONNORS:**

You mean as far as classroom utilization?

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Classroom utilization.

**MR. CONNORS:**

That's a real issue to tell you the truth, a real problem, Monday through Thursday, literally we're booked around the clock from eight o'clock in the morning till nine o'clock in the evening.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Well, I know once when I taught out of the Ammerman Campus I had to teach at a satellite. I taught at a junior high.

**MR. CONNORS:**

That's right. That's one of the issues.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

So you're saturated now with --

**MR. CONNORS:**

We really are. In fact, if you look at the SUNY reports, our utilization is among the highest in the country. And what we plan to do -- and I didn't mention this in my report -- but when we open the new Science Building in 2011, Crayling Hall, the old Marshall Building, will be renovated to classroom space. We need plain old, you know, multiple-purpose classrooms.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

That's in the Capital Program.

**MR. CONNORS:**

It is. It is.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

I remember that. Okay. Well, I guess with all that growth, the utilization is very high. Is that the same in all campuses.

**MR. WALTERS:**

Yes.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Right.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

So I don't have to ask it each time. You have very high utilization. Okay. Thank you.

**MR. STEIN:**

Dr. Walters.

**MR. WALTERS:**

Thank you, Dean Connors. I first want to say on behalf of the faculty and staff thank you for your continued support to our campus. To start out the presentation, just a few highlights with regards to the Eastern Campus. We are the smallest, but we have enrollment of approximately 3000 students. And we offer the unique career programs as listed here. Our top academic programs based off enrolment numbers are liberal arts, graphic design, business, and as you see, criminal justice, culinary arts and interior design. And this number has been increasing for the past three years.

This past fall semester, we celebrated a landmark achievement with a record number in terms of our student enrollment. To give you some more detail on this number, our primary feeder schools here for that area is Riverhead, William Floyd, Westhampton Beach, and Eastport. Seventy percent of the students of this number are those under the age of 24 years old. So we're seeing an increasing number of traditional aged students.

Additionally, the diversity of the student body is at approximately 20%. It's important to note that in terms of the first time students coming into our campus we have what I would consider, you know, a relatively high number in terms of those who need some form of remediation. And again, this isn't just unique to our campus, but it's -- I think it's a national dilemma that a lot of community colleges face based off our open access mission. This slide essentially represents the green initiatives that we have participated in and are still actively engaged with on the campus.

**MR. STEIN:**

Just to interrupt, the photo here, we utilize guinea hens at the Eastern Campus to take care of the tick problem.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

You and Christie Brinkley.

**MR. STEIN:**

It's amazing. And I might say, they reproduce rapidly.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

That will be the only thing I'll remember from your entire presentation when we're done.

**MR. WALTERS:**

There are many significant accomplishments to highlight about the campus. And I think one of the things we're most proud of is that we continue to be technologically advanced having 70% of our classrooms smart-ready. As I shared earlier, the culinary arts facility has created a buzz both on the campus and I believe within the community. I think in addition to contributing to the revitalization efforts of the community, the college has an increased visibility and accessibility that will be available once the program is up and running in the Spring of 2008.

Student projects, I think, also reflects direct correlation in terms of the level of engagement that our students have both within and outside of the classroom. As it was mentioned earlier, the conversation centering around graduation rates, one of the struggles that we have, again, clearly connected to the community college atmosphere is ensuring that the students that we bring, the commuter students that we bring on our campus are not only actively engaged within the classroom, but there are a host of opportunities outside the classroom that keeps on them on the campus and fully, you know, engaged and connected to the campus in terms of really ultimately supporting them as it relates to them meeting their goals, student success, student retention.

The Library Resources Center is another area that we're extremely excited about, because I think this will create an opportunity not only in terms of bringing a new state-of-the-art facility on the campus, but I think equally important, creating a new opportunity to realign resources and spaces on our campus to help us move closer to having a -- what we call a one-stop shop operation as it relates to our enrollment services. Again, increased efficiency, increased customer service.

There are, again, multiple successes that we can highlight for both our students and faculty. Our students are actively engaged both academically and co-curricularly. The faculty accomplishments here highlight, I think, a fact not only at the Eastern Campus, but all three campuses, that is the fact that they are scholars, they remain in tune with what's going on within their respective disciplines, and they're active in terms of at both the State and national level.

Our third bullet here highlight the continued commitment in terms of what some of our faculty are doing within their local community. This here just highlights diversity of different activities, again, within and outside of the classroom that our students are involved with. Our students are becoming increasingly more active via clubs that we have on campus. And just to highlight, a lot of our student clubs that we have, we have what's called a faculty advisor. So there's, again, a strong connection with what is occurring within the classroom as well as outside of the classroom.

In closing, I just wanted to really highlight, again, the emphasis that has been placed on continuous improvement relative to looking at bullets two through four. We continually try to respond to the various needs of our students. And in doing so, we recognize that oftentimes we may not have the financial resources to get additional positions to immediately address an issue or a need. But bullets two through four highlight some various activities that we have done over the past two years to ensure that the college is becoming more and more adaptable and flexible in responding to the various needs of our students. With that, I will turn it over to Dr. McKay.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Sorry. Actually, I'm not certain which one of you would want to answer this, but Dean Connors knows how important the library is to me on the East End -- I mean, on the Eastern Campus. And just -- because my colleagues might not have visited the Eastern Campus -- what is the square footage of the library now, and what are we looking to develop? Because I think that that's -- for an institution of higher learning, I know how I left when I saw the library in that Eastern Campus. Anybody have those?

**MR. WALTERS:**

The existing square footage for the library, I think, is at 7200. I'll have to go back and confirm that.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And that space is used for a few things.

**MR. WALTERS:**

It's primary the library. Our media services component is also located in there as well.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

And the new facility will be?

**MR. WALTERS:**

I have to get that figure. I don't have it off the top of my head.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

A lot bigger.

**MR. WALTERS:**

Much bigger.

**MR. STEIN:**

A lot bigger.

**MR. WALTERS:**

Dedicated building.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Okay. You know, it's a college with a 7200 square foot library, that's very sad. And that was an important part of the Middle States.

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes, it was.

**MR. MCKAY:**

And I think also in the Capital Budget and the Capital Program, we have a ten year master plan that captures the historical tenants in regards to where we've been via enrollment. And I think equally at the Grant Campus, when you look at when the building was constructed to where we are now, that location serves a multiplicity of different functions. So when you look at, for example, the media

room, you look at student study labs, we have two rooms in that library where students in an 8000 student run campus could reserve to have access for group activities. So again -- two rooms.

So again, when you look at what's happening for the buildings, at the time they were constructed, they were relatively important and significant for the needs of the campuses, but as we outgrew the facility, the needs ultimately go beyond what we can provide. So that also is to add to what Dean Walters had stated earlier.

At the Grant Campus, if I can just speak very quickly on the enrollment numbers, in Fall of '05, we were at 7897 students. Now, if you go back to 2000, we were roughly around -- probably around 5000 students. What does that mean for us? We talked a few minutes ago about the buildings and its capacity in regards to enrollment. And with the library that we have now, we now currently are at 8139. In 2006, we were the highest ever at 8240. Obviously, the campus is moving in right direction. When you see the difference in the numbers, again, it also relates to the full time to part time issue.

We also didn't have a Police Academy class as well, which also counts into the FTE as well at the Grant Campus. So that also is a factor in the numbers as well. When you look at our online offerings, our online offerings have increased by 16% at the Grant Campus. It's one of the fastest growing elements of instruction at the campus level. And that also helps when we talk about facility and build-out and the ability to offer classes on campus. This is one area that certainly contributes to enrollment.

And what we found also with first-time full time students that came in last semester, 58% of those students required one or more developmental courses. Again, that is an area in which our college president has taken the initiative to either through College Success, EOP, Trio and other programs -- and what's also significant is the semester falling right after, 70% of those students do test out of developmental. So right now the college is looking at getting a program in place where we can have an orientation program upfront with support services now looking at best practices to expand our efforts to help students that come to the college similar to East and Ammerman.

What's important is that the college has taken efficiency initiatives very, very seriously. We've looked at programmatic areas, we've looked to see -- as we've talked before -- with graduation and transfer rates, also, programs that are no longer within the economic scope of the County or providing transfer opportunities or degree opportunities as well; in this case, ophthalmic dispensing. We did a viability study on that, and according to the State Labor Department numbers and also within the industry, I believe it was also -- they projected maybe ten jobs were needed between now and 2010. So again, we looked at that.

You look at the nursing program, the nursing program is the fastest growing here, Allied Health. So we needed more A&P sections. Before this committee, we spoke before about running classes at 6:30 in the morning Saturdays and Sundays. With the new A&P Lab that we will have at the Grant Campus, that will help us in dealing with some of these issues. So again, by responding to the vitality issues -- and thanks again on behalf of the campus for realizing the urgent need in that additional space as well.

I'll move to achieving cost savings at this point in time. At the Grant Campus, for example, the one thing we've done is to look at how we can enhance skill sets for employees. Normally we would contract out for a contractor to come to the campus and do those contractual works. We were able through skill enhancement to have that work done in-house where the recent renovation to the gallery saved us at least \$35,000.

The campus renovation project, again, at the Grant Campus, we did not have a music room that was a lab where you can have piano or have other courses that are taught where the noise can be contained in that location and not impact the other classrooms. We were able, again, to have that constructed. It will be fully operational in the spring of next year. And that's the first fully equipped

music room that has been on this campus since its inception. And that was also done in-house, again, by our team, which saved us at least another \$50,000.

The Captree Commons location at the Grant Campus -- it seems to be that the Grant Campus is the most sought after location for community events as well. And, again, it's a part of our mission. The Captree Commons location has two functional conference rooms. Unfortunately, that building has been there for quite a while. And as we know, with use, the restrooms took -- it served its purpose at that time. So we have to go back and look at how we can renovate that location without at least increasing our budgetary costs. And through the State support and the grant that we have, a \$3 million grant, we were able to have that location revitalized as well.

Another point of enhanced skill sets and in-house training, again, for our planned operations staff, if you notice the picture to your right with the before location, there's a shaded portion that pretty much was across the whole facade of the building. We had -- our team actually went out and learned how to use certain power washing tools and were able to use some rigs to get up and at least power wash the entire building before the most recent AVMA site visit accreditation. And again, that saved us about \$25,000.

Quite important also, just two points of note, our students. Our students have an access to the academic side of the house in regards to pedagogy, curriculum, issues on the campuses. The Grant Campus Ambassador Program is a service leading initiative where our students will be connected to organizations in the community where our students can be mentors, where our students can speak about the success of the college and their actual time with us and what it means in regards to having an experience at Suffolk County. That is the Ambassador Program.

The Dining with the Dean Program also allows the SGA and all the students to have an opportunity to sit with the campus Dean in the cafeteria and just have a dialog about their experience at the campus. Quite too often, our meetings and our trips have us back and forth, but it's important that we engage our students to see how well we are doing outside of the classroom. And that's one of the initiatives we have at the campus as well.

We spoke about the early morning program, and that has been going quite well. This semester we have increased our sections in that area. And again, our enrollment seems to be following that initiative as well. Normally you find that you either find police officers or nurses, those who are trying to get off work early in the morning or those that have to work late in the day, they can complete a full degree option in two years attending the college between 6:30 and 10:00 in the morning. That is a first for the college, because we haven't marketed this substantially just yet, because, again, it was a trial run. And so far, with the data that we have, the persistence rates in those areas have been quite well.

The Early College Program we spoke about briefly. We have, I believe, ten school districts on board right now, at least in my area. Each of the Deans can speak to that as well. We just had CI on board, and they're starting their first group in the spring where we're going to have the juniors and seniors involved in that program. So we're expanding that. First, we talk about when students approach the college, how many are testing into the developmental. Well, what we're doing now is accessing students in the junior level and providing that data information to the schools as well. What does that mean for us? On both sides, that's intervention; they are seeing where the students will place on college-level material; and we can utilize that data to place them in college-level material as well. So we're working on both sides to help the students.

In the Honors Program, we've increased our Honors Program at the Grant Campus by 47%. That is a phenomenal number. We're now offering evening Honors Program, evening Honors courses, which we've never done before. And that's all based upon increased enrollment in those areas. We've now increased the Early College Program. The Early College Program, first, will just look at having students going through traditional degree and transfer tracks. Why is this important? We've learned on Long Island how folks are leaving, and we're trying to find ways to keep them here. Our

career programs on Long Island -- for example, the HVAC Program, your starting salary is about \$50,000. So those programs now, when we go to the high school and early college, we're looking at the technical programs as well.

In manufacturing and industry we just had a \$2.5 million megatronics grant. The building that is being constructed at the Grant Campus now also will house both the HVACR Program and the Megatronics Program. So now we're engaged in the high schools. We have 40 tech teachers right now in the high schools that are training on the Grant Campus going through simulations in modules one and two. They'll go back to the high schools and the tech programs and then fuse that into their curriculum. So we're working on both sides to assist.

Now, what does that mean for us? We have over 1200 students in those tech programs that will logically look to Suffolk as a two plus two entry portion. We just talked about the Workforce Development Center. That is being constructed to full LEEDs standards, and we're currently in design phase. Hopefully we can move forward with that. We're estimating that that will be on line for the 2009 academic year. Recycling, we've just embarked on a recycling program where our students and staff are jointly involved in that. So once again, we have our students involved in a green initiative.

VP Stein has already spoken about the energy savings, so I will not go over that point again. But one point of note, again, with career programs, we just got \$80,000 for the Oil Heat Industry. And again, why is that significant? That is another way, again, of getting students to enter into a program, getting a thousand dollars up front, and that will go towards their tuition and fees. Subsequent to retain them after that, they will provide \$500 per semester either towards books or additional costs. So again, it's a significant investment into that program. And Granger Corporation just this past semester added another \$5000 to that scholarship fund.

At the Grant Campus this past academic year, we had the highest number of SUNY award recipients for students. I believe it was seven out of 13 at the college; our 2006 National Award winner, Ms. Abby Cassella-Graeser who was the All USA Academic First Team and New Century Scholar. As of yesterday our, state-wide math competition, the Grant Campus as a team placed 13 out of 28 teams the second year they've entered. And one of the students placed second across the state in the math competition. So again, it shows that our faculty and staff are truly investigating into our students as well.

We have an arena-style faculty registration initiative? What does that mean? The faculty actually is giving back time to the campus and to the students. In year one of the initiative, we housed in the Sagtikos Lobby area value a registration process whereby we had 35 faculty members volunteer over a two to three day period to work with the students and enroll them in subsequent semester courses. We had 200 students that year. The second year we had the initiative, we had 70 faculty members volunteer. It almost doubled -- in fact, it doubled what we had last year. The faculty is truly engaged in working with the students and helping them through the academic process. That semester we enrolled 460 students.

Real quickly, for the ETU Technology Unit, we spoke about the classrooms and we also spoke about SMART technology, again, utilizing technology at the campus to deliver to the students what they're used to. I mean, the students that we see right now are more technologically savvy than we would predict. So again, the campus is moving in the right direction with technology.

One key piece with that is network storing device, which we have in the labs. That is significant because a student can go to any lab on the Grant Campus and are able to retain their academic profile. So if you're working on documents at the campus level in one lab, you go to a class, you come back, you go to a different lab and get access to those records as well. And the campus is moving along in trying to make sure that more students utilize that information as well.

In the library, because we have more students that are coming from the high school and also more

students that should be utilizing primary sources in their writing and also improving their communication, we've also looked at LR 11s, LR 15s. Those courses -- there's no cost for the faculty, because it's part of the regular faculty load. And also, what we find happening is that the students now are writing better papers, they're producing better documents. So again, the important thing for us here is that, again, we're utilizing resources we have to become more efficient.

In the media area, we were able to add a photographic studio at the campus where students could at least intern inhouse and at least go in and do some work that was taught at least in the classrooms. So the theoretical part of it is covered, but now we at least have an area where they can at least practice as well. And that concludes the Grant Campus presentation. I'll turn this back over to our Vice-President Chuck Stein.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you. We have already started preparing our 2008-2009 budget requests. We're actively involved throughout the college. It comes before our Budget and Planning Committee. Ultimately, what comes over to the County, you should be aware, does go through the gauntlet before it gets here. We ask that should you have initiatives -- I know that the Legislature and its various members in the past have looked to create initiatives within the college -- we ask should you have any, please communicate that to us at this time as we are formulating that budget.

We do plan on addressing the committee, hopefully, in March to let you know not only our status but what we're looking at in terms of the budget that we will be submitting. We want to keep you informed and apprised of all of that. With that, we thank you for your time and your continued support. And we look forward to continuing to brief you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Chuck. I do have a quick question here from Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Yeah. Just a very general question, and maybe you'd want to solicit one or two comments. About 28 years ago, the Board of Trustees of Suffolk Community College had a very long in-depth meeting, and the discussion surrounded open access. And there were really two schools of thought. The one school said, you know, we should have access because it would give minorities a greater opportunity to attend college. The flip side of that was that there were some who said, well, you know, if we do that it takes the high schools -- the school districts off the hook, because the reality is get a general diploma and you can always go down the street to Suffolk Community College. And also, better students may not want to come to Suffolk Community College because just about anybody can go there, all right?

You indicated in your presentation that 58% of the new students coming in, at least in your campus -- let's say it holds true for the other two -- need remediation, you know? Has there ever been any discussion over the last 27, 28 years concerning that policy to adjust it, fine tune it? I mean, you can't go back to the way it was. But the question is it's got to be very costly. I mean, I don't know what the numbers are, but if it hold true on every campus, that's a considerable amount of your money going to remediate these students. And again, the question is -- you know, it's a sidebar -- but what sort of a job are the high schools doing to prepare these students for college when you have to give them in almost 60% of the cases remediation at least for one semester when they come in?

**MR. STEIN:**

If I might. The point you raise is a very important one, and it's a national problem, it's not just Suffolk County.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

I understand that, Chuck.

**MR. STEIN:**

It's a national situation.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Is that still an individual community college decision or is that dictated by SED?

**MR. STEIN:**

Well, at this point in time, every community college --

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Does it.

**MR. STEIN:**

-- in the State of New York is a full-opportunity program college.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

That's a decision made by each individual board of every community college at some point? Like we did it, like, years ago, Suffolk Community College did it. I don't know if it's a state -- I don't know. At this point, it could be a state regulation.

**MR. STEIN:**

My knowledge at this point is that every community college is a full-opportunity program college. And it would probably be a very interesting question to raise with SUNY if the college were to consider not doing that.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

I don't think that was appropriate. But certainly it's become those trustees thought -- some of them thought would be in the remediation business, spending a great deal of money to remediate students.

**MR. STEIN:**

The State, by the way, one of things that the SUNY request that was submitted to the Governor's Office includes is a recognition of this problem and they placed in their request for funding for community colleges for this type of training. So there is a recognition at the State level. Does it address the issue that you raise with respect to students coming out of high schools? No, it doesn't. And I think that's an issue that probably requires a lot more time and discussion.

**MR. MCKAY:**

If I can add to that as well. I think the issue about open access is one that is the foundation of the Land Grant institutions and community colleges. It goes back to 1901. If you look at what's happening across the country -- let me step back for a minute. When I looked at the last academic year, and I had the number one and the number four student that graduated from Deer Park, and I look at Babylon and Bay Shore, that's the high-end students that folks would tell me wouldn't come to my campus.

Now, when I get out into the high schools, and I talk about the success stories, our support programs, our qualified teachers, the small class sizes, I have them actually interact with students, and they come to the campus. I then make them ambassadors for Suffolk Community College. Now going back to issue about remediation, what our president has done -- which again is the College Success Program, and now she's going to put into effect that first year orientation program -- it's upon now what we've seen, which is, again, in the semester, 70% of those students do move on.

So again, the question, again, is are we doing as well as we're supposed to be doing to help those students? I believe we are. To the context that when they arrive at our door, we have to be responsive to the community and to the County, because, again, that's what we're supposed to do.

Now, other community colleges have similar programs. And there are national programs now with models, either through SESI or NESI or through {John Garden} and others who are looking at entire first year experiences.

When I went back and looked at the census report, of the 1.5 million residents living here in Suffolk County, 25% had a Bachelors Degree or higher? What does that mean for us? We talk about folks moving off Long Island. The career tracks is another explanation we have to have for that as well. Better preparing our students to succeed in college is what others felt the two-year systems should do very well. We knew that all along.

The context is -- again, we talked about graduation rate and transfer rate. Well, guess what, folks? We're getting these folks ready for success in their careers. But they transfer right before they get time to degree. And what happens to those students, they move right into a different population. Nationally, we don't track students across systems. And what you may find happening is those success stories are now becoming success stories at other institutions as well. So we're doing as well as we can there. And that's a national discussion. The open access discussion, again, goes back to a historical context of why we are who we are and what was expected of us in the Land Grant and the community college system.

**MR. CONNORS:**

If I can just say one other comment, Mr. Barraga. When I first joined the faculty a long time ago, I look at the number of students taking developmental courses compared to now, far fewer. For example, we didn't have reading courses. Now we have reading departments at the campus. In the english area, we had Developmental English, EG 10. Now we have EG 09 and EG 10. But especially acute is the Math area. We had MAO 5, which was Algebra, and MAO 8, Geometry. Now we have MAO 1, which is Arithmetic, and then we have the MAO 7, which is the Algebra, and then we have, you know, other courses, MAO 6 too. And many, many students -- in fact, of all of the developmental areas, that's the one that's the largest and most problematic, Math. If you notice the school curriculums, again, they're doing away with the Math A and the Math B, and they're going back to the Algebra and Geometry. I hope that that perhaps might help the situation. But your cause of concern is a legitimate one, because I look at the amount of resources that we spend on all of these developmental courses, all of these developmental courses, and it's staggering.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Thank you.

**LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:**

Thank you.

**MR. CONNORS:**

Thank you.

**MR. STEIN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, gentlemen. Good report. Thank you for the update. Motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Stern. We're done.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:45 P.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY