

**POSITION PAPER**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPITAL BUDGET**

**Background**

Each year Maryland's 15 community colleges submit a consolidated list of projects for inclusion in the State's Capital Budget. (Baltimore City Community College, being a state institution, submits their projects separately.) Each project on the consolidated request is an integral component of their institution's Master Plan, has the support of their Board of Trustees, and has a commitment from their local government for a matching grant. In addition, each project is reviewed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of General Services to assure the project is ready for funding.

For the first time, the 2009 community college capital request has been submitted to the State in priority order. This was done at the request of the General Assembly through language in last year's Joint Chairman's Report. MACC maintains the position that all projects submitted warrant funding.

**Current Capital Budget Request**

- The 2009 community college capital request totals \$134 million. This is for 34 projects across 14 community college campuses. Several colleges have more than one project.
- Funding each college's priority project in the 2009 Capital Budget requires a State commitment of \$104 million.
- Community colleges need over \$100 million in the State's Capital Budget each year for the next 10 years. This is not a wish list. These projects represent the documented needs based on *MHEC Computations of Space Needs* calculations and MHEC enrollment projections.

**Why has the annual Capital Budget request for community colleges doubled?**

The quick answer –Enrollment increases coupled with aging facilities.

Enrollments at community colleges are at an historic high and are projected to increase between 17 and 34% in the next decade. Currently over 500,000 Marylanders enroll annually in one of Maryland's 16 community colleges.

- As tuitions at four-year institutions increase, more students are choosing to attend their local area community college for the first two years of their college education. Community colleges continue to be less than half the cost of tuition at one of Maryland's four-year public college or university and one-eighth the cost of a private institution.
- Over 60% of the State's high school graduates who choose to stay in Maryland for postsecondary education attend their local area community college.
- Since the Thornton initiative, the number of new full-time freshmen at community colleges has increased by 13.5%.

Maryland community colleges are aging. Of the current 300 buildings on the 16 community colleges across the State, half are over 35 years old.

- Approximately half of the community college annual capital request is for renovations and maintenance.
- Maryland's community colleges are the largest providers of workforce training in the State. In order to meet work demands and maintain global competitiveness, our colleges must maintain state-of-the-art training facilities.