



USNH, UNH Leaders React to Governor Sununu's Budget Proposal

February 14, 2019 – Concord - Todd Leach, Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire, and James W. Dean, President of the University of New Hampshire, released the following statements today in response to Gov. Chris Sununu's budget address:

Chancellor Leach

"The Governor's proposal will ensure that USNH remains the leading provider of the highly-skilled workforce that New Hampshire businesses require to thrive and stay competitive. This strategic funding will allow us to redouble our efforts, particularly in the critical areas of health care, such as nursing, and advanced manufacturing. This is a promising beginning to the budget process, and we look forward to working with the House and Senate on these important issues in the months ahead."

President Dean

"We're grateful that Governor Sununu is supporting the renovation and expansion of Spaulding Hall, which has been a top priority for UNH and USNH for years. The state has identified bioscience as vital to the state's economic development, and this capital partnership will allow UNH to play a major role in training talent for this important and growing high-tech sector in our state."

BACKGROUND

The Governor's operating budget proposal includes a \$24 million one-time investment (\$9 million for both UNH and Keene State College, and \$6 million for Plymouth State University) to support a statewide talent initiative targeting high-demand areas of healthcare and precision manufacturing. Informed by stakeholders and employment data, the appropriation will fund strategic projects on each campus that will provide continued value to the state well beyond the biennium.

The Governor's capital budget proposal includes \$10 million for the first phase of the Biological Sciences Initiative, an extensive renovation and expansion of UNH's biological science labs to modernize the 1960s era facility (Spaulding Hall). This first round of state funding will be matched by \$20 million from UNH/USNH. An additional \$2 million, matched by \$4 million from Plymouth State University/USNH, will support the Hyde Hall Innovation and Entrepreneur Center at PSU.

About USNH

The University System of New Hampshire enrolls 33,000 students, and consists of four public institutions: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of

New Hampshire. USNH strives to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible higher educational opportunities throughout New Hampshire, as well as address critical state workforce needs. A 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the University System.

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