



NEWS RELEASE

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UTPB TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY

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The University of Texas of the Permian Basin received big news Thursday when the UT Board of Regents awarded an additional \$2 million to the university for science and technology education. Added to the \$54 million already authorized by the Texas Legislature, UTPB will be building a state-of-the-art science building, computer science building and a completely renovated industrial technology building.

U.S. competitiveness in science and technology is falling behind the rest of the world, according to the National Academy of Sciences. The funds allocated to UTPB by the regents and the Texas Legislature means that UTPB and its students can and will be a part of changing this trend.

In Austin for the announcement, UTPB President David Watts said he could not have been more pleased with the news.

“UTPB is proud to play a part in helping provide a world-class education in science and technology,” Watts said.

The announcement served to reinforce remarks made earlier this week by U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. Addressing a crowd at UTPB’s Center for Energy and Economic Diversification, Hutchison said she hopes to see energy and nuclear power become UTPB’s specialization. Increased science and technology research at the university would help provide jobs for engineers and scientists in the United States, as well as provide a training ground for the next generation.

In January of this year, President George Bush announced plans to address at the federal level a growing concern about the effects of rapid global competition and erosion of US advantages in the marketplace and in science and technology. His American Competitiveness Initiative calls for unprecedented investments in science, technology, math and health education to ensure the competitive future of the country.

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UT System Chancellor Mark G. Yudof told Watts and other UT System

presidents that Texas is doing its part to address these issues of competitiveness, the need for a strong educated workforce, and the need to advance promising research.

"Today, with approval of these investments, the UT System is helping ensure that the state of Texas will become the location of choice for the nation's – and the world's – leading scientists, doctors, mathematicians and technologists. In doing so, UT will help keep this country competitive and boost the economy of the state and nation," Yudof said.

The additional funds bring UTPB's investment in upcoming capital improvement projects to \$104 million. UTPB is planning a state-of-the-art science complex as well as a performing arts center, which received an additional \$3 million from the regents.

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