

**Report to the
2006 North Carolina General Assembly
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

**The University of North Carolina
Strategic Initiatives Reserve
2004-2005**

January 30, 2006

First appropriated in 1999, the Strategic Initiatives Reserve is used by the University to capitalize on system-wide opportunities and address system-wide issues and concerns. This funding enables the President to explore new initiatives and foster collaboration and partnerships among the campuses. The North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2004-05 to the University of North Carolina – General Administration, as a Strategic Initiatives Reserve. Projects and collaborative efforts funded from this Reserve are identified below.

UNC Bond Program – Oversight and Compliance – \$1,842,000

In the 2000 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly authorized a referendum on the November 2000 ballot for voters to approve \$3.1 billion in higher education construction bonds, \$2.5 billion to be invested in the 16 UNC campuses and affiliated entities. Seventy-three percent of North Carolina's voters offered a clear-cut expression of their values and their priorities for North Carolina by approving the proposed bond issue. The statutorily created Bond Oversight Committee, the UNC Board of Governors, the President, and the 16 chancellors stand accountable for the construction dollars that have been provided by the voters of this state. They have resolved to execute UNC's \$2.5-billion capital program *on time and on budget*. Toward this goal, funds from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve were allocated to secure oversight and expertise for the bond program, ensuring that projects are on schedule and that cash flow availability is matched to campus needs. Improving the use of Historically Underutilized Businesses is also an important goal for the University and funds are directed towards this goal. Seven HUB Contractor Academies have been sponsored to help develop business skills of minority contractors, so that they may better compete for State work. Approximately 100 minority firms have participated in the Academies. The Strategic Initiatives Reserve has funded eight construction audits to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and that campuses are effectively utilizing the improved construction delivery methods

authorized by the General Assembly, and more are planned. Upgrades and improvements to the software for construction project management have also been funded.

UNC Economic Development Initiative – \$1,009,200

Funding from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve was used to provide nonrecurring funding for UNC System multi-campus economic development initiative to address UNC's challenge to lead and prepare North Carolina for the new economy. Core to the project is the implementation of the North Carolina Higher Education Economic Development Portal. The applications will provide the infrastructure to link academic resources from the UNC System; NC Community College System; and Duke, Wake Forest, Elon, and Campbell universities with the business community to support economic development and growth for North Carolina.

The North Carolina Higher Education Economic Development Portal is shaped under three core concepts. First, the portal will identify academic resources within and among higher education institutions that promote and augment economic development. The academic resource content will be shaped around technology, application, or client-driven demands that support North Carolina's new economy. In addition to providing non-degree and degree offerings, research activities and capabilities identified with scholarship will include partnering businesses with faculty and staff to assist in business start-ups and growth; technical assistance capabilities; technologies patented and/or available for licensing; and training to include continuing education, short courses, workshops, seminars, and customized workforce training. Second, the application will interactively present and market specific higher education resources to targeted user groups: NC Department of Commerce, economic development organizations, industry, entrepreneurs, and state/local government and communities. Finally, the portal will create an interactive collaboration platform for members of these

user groups and the higher education community to promote comprehensive economic development for the state.

Unified Data Model – \$941,812

The University provided funding for the development of a University of North Carolina Unified Data Model for executive information and decision support functions, to serve all sixteen campuses as well as UNC General Administration. The data warehouse consolidates financial data from SCT Plus and Banner, and PeopleSoft product lines – the financial systems in place or to be in place at all sixteen campuses. The data warehouse serves UNC executive, senior financial, and research staff members in analyzing the University's overall performance and program outcomes. Funding enabled the procurement of hardware/software, programming resources, information technology support, product testing and project management assistance that facilitated the launch of the data warehouse.

UNC Health Care Initiative – \$95,488

In July 2004, the President appointed a task force to recommend improvements to health care benefits offered to UNC System faculty and staff. Based on feedback from employees obtained through survey and campus open meetings, the task force concluded that the highest priorities were to provide more affordable coverage for dependents, access to primary care with lower out-of-pocket costs, more emphasis on wellness, and more opportunity to choose a plan that meets the needs of individual employees and their families. The UNC Health Care Initiative provided assistance for surveys, employee education, plan development, and data collection/analysis. These resources enabled the task force to develop a model health care plan that was responsive to needs expressed by UNC faculty and staff.

UNC Press Development Initiative – \$50,000

Through collaboration with members of the academic community and scholars working in the public sector, UNC Press has become the “press of record” for some of the best new work on our state and region. An audit was funded to assess the development and advancement capability of the organization and to provide strategies and direction to future endeavors. Strategies were implemented to expand the role of the UNC Press and permit it to undertake projects that are of educational and economic value to the citizens of North Carolina.

Transfer Assured Admissions Policy (TAAP) – \$35,000

Funding was provided to build web-enabled functionality within the College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) web portal to facilitate and implement the Transfer Assured Admissions Policy (TAAP). The CFNC’s TAAP upgrade provides NC Community College System (NCCCS) degree graduates with a web-enabled utility program to initiate and validate NCCCS transfer assurance and acceptance to a UNC campus. As enhanced, CFNC Web Portal now serves as the internet tool that automates the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA) workflows to facilitate a smooth transition for students from an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees to transfer and acceptance to the University of North Carolina System.

UNC Campus Peer Review – \$26,500

Strategic Initiative Reserve provided funding for a higher education peer institution report for the University of North Carolina. The study incorporated a comprehensive series of academic and financial data variables to identify peer institutions for each UNC Campus. The study provided benchmarking comparisons for evaluating their campus effectiveness and competitiveness to higher education institutions with similar academic missions, funding constraints, and student compositions. These comparisons included academic achievement, graduation rates, time to degree, enrollment data, academic

program composition, degrees offered, Carnegie classification, public versus private institutions, enrollment standards, tuition and fee rates, financial aid, capital funding, state funding, endowments, faculty and staff salary comparison, and sponsored program research.