



# Mitch McConnell

## Senate Majority Whip

### U.S. Senator for Kentucky

For Immediate Release  
January 22, 2004  
2004-20

Contact: Robert Steurer  
(202) 224-8288

#### **SENATOR McCONNELL SECURES OVER \$11 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell announced today that he has secured \$11.363 million for several projects at the University of Kentucky. The money is included in the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report, which passed the Senate and is now on its way to the President for his signature.

“President Todd has done a masterful job of pursuing initiatives that strengthen UK’s areas of excellence, and I am pleased to support his vision by delivering these funds,” McConnell said.

McConnell, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, secured the following funding:

- **\$1 million for the Biomedical Imaging Equipment for the University of Kentucky.** The University will use the funds Senator McConnell secured to help purchase a Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Spectroscopy scanner. The Commonwealth currently does not have an MRI machine of this caliber, which hinders the University’s clinical and basic biomedical research and forces Kentuckians to travel out-of-state for advanced diagnostics.
- **\$1 million for the University of Kentucky Center for Instructional Technology and Learning.** Senator McConnell secured these funds to help the University continue to provide information via the Internet about strategies teachers can use to meet the special educational needs of students with disabilities. The University enjoys a distinguished national reputation in this field and will use these funds to focus on aiding Kentucky’s rural school districts, which frequently lack the most up-to-date educational technologies of their larger counterparts. Senator McConnell has delivered an additional \$2 million to the Center in previous years.

-more-

- **\$1 million for the University of Kentucky Center for Improving Medication-Related Outcomes.** The University will use the funds Senator McConnell secured to continue to help doctors and patients identify the most expensive and frequent medication errors and develop strategies to prevent them. The University established the Center with the help of \$1 million Senator McConnell previously secured.
- **\$1 million for the University of Kentucky Law School Electronic Access Project.** These funds will permit the Law School to continue its efforts to increase rural communities' access to legal resources. The University already operates successfully two electronic access sites in rural Kentucky communities, and these funds will allow the University to place electronic access sites in three more locations. Senator McConnell directed \$750,000 to the UK Law School in an earlier federal spending bill.
- **\$5.863 million for the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.** Senator McConnell secured funding for several agriculture research projects, including \$2.74 million for joint research with the Agriculture Research Service on forages for livestock production, \$663,000 to study new crop opportunities, \$604,000 for the Advanced Genetic Technologies Center, \$805,000 for the Health Education Extension Leadership Program, \$663,000 for the Precision Resource Management Program, and \$388,000 to examine traditional forage varieties and to evaluate native warm season grasses.
- **\$1.5 million for University of Kentucky transportation research.** The University will use \$1 million secured by Senator McConnell to support the University of Kentucky Transportation Center, which develops technology to improve the safety of commercial vehicles. The University of Kentucky Academy for Community Transportation Innovation also will receive \$500,000 to develop innovative methods to integrate transportation facilities in rural areas.

The Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report now goes to President Bush for his signature.