

FCR 3

Office of the President
October 16, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A RESEARCH WING IN THE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
BUILDING AT WEST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the use of \$1 million in university funds to support construction of a research wing on the new Emerging Technologies Building at West Kentucky Community and Technical College (Paducah).

Background: In 1995, the University of Kentucky College of Engineering established a partnership with Paducah Community College [now West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC)] and Murray State University to deliver undergraduate engineering programs in Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at Paducah Community College. These programs were established to help economic development efforts in the Purchase Region, especially with maintaining and expanding the economic activities associated with the United States Enrichment Corporation's nuclear fuel plant near Paducah. To date, the programs have awarded bachelor's degrees to more than 100 graduates.

Over \$10 million in private donations were used to construct the programs' original facilities. The State of Kentucky has provided recurring funds for the maintenance and operation of the facility.

The instruction and research activities of the faculty have outgrown the original facilities. Because WKCTC has been pursuing the design and construction of a new Emerging Technologies Building on the campus, the University of Kentucky is involved in a joint planning effort with WKCTC to add a research wing on the new facility to house Engineering classroom and lab space. The WKCTC administration has agreed to raise \$1.5 million in private support to supplement a \$1 million commitment from the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky for the design and construction of the new research wing.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____