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FHSU President Happy About Governor's Announcement

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Fort Hays State University NEWS

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

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FHSU PRESIDENT HAPPY ABOUT GOVERNOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

3/27/92 local+50 bl

HAYS, KAN.-----To most people, Christmas 1992 might seem some nine months away but to Fort Hays State University President Edward H. Hammond, Christmas came on Thursday.

Thursday Gov. Joan Finney announced a one-time windfall of \$185 million from the federal government to the state of Kansas. One of the many ways Finney will suggest to the legislature that the money be spent was to fund \$8 million of a \$12 million physical science building at FHSU.

"I want to thank the Governor for thinking about FHSU and including us in her plans to use those federal funds. We've already received a commitment of \$4 million from the federal government for the construction of this proposed state-of-the-art physical sciences facility," Hammond said, "so if the Governor can get legislative support of her suggestion for us, we will see a major project on our campus moved up by two years."

The proposed location of the new building is adjacent to the University's power plant, where the tennis courts now stand. According to Hammond, new tennis courts will be constructed south of M.C. Cunningham Hall.

"This announcement is one of the best things that has happened to our University for some time," Hammond said. "Hopefully, it won't be long until we see some architect's plans, then some ground breaking, and eventually a fantastic facility."

The new building is scheduled to house the departments of chemistry, geosciences, and physics, the campus computing center, classrooms, laboratories and offices.

The \$185 million is coming back to Kansas in the form of disproportionate share funds. Those funds are Kansas' share of federal Medicaid money for certain costs associated with care of indigent individuals in state mental hospitals.

More good news is that Kansas may receive another \$104 million next year because of past underpayments from the federal government to the state.

MORE

Finney funds/ad 1

Finney is suggesting to the legislature that the other money the state will receive be used for a stabilization fund which would address unanticipated revenue declines and major emergencies; for housing programs; to address cash flow needs in social rehabilitation services; provide stable funding for Low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization Fund; and for the construction of buildings at the Universities of Kansas, Kansas State and Pittsburg State.

"The construction of our new science building would be great for the University, the local economy, the state of Kansas and for our future students," Hammond said. "We're truly excited about the future of the teaching of the physical sciences at FHSU."