

April 1, 2009

Dear CUMU CEO:

Below you can access a report entitled “Smart Infrastructure to Create One Million Jobs.” This call to action suggests a new national education investment act for the construction of new facilities on our campuses. Written by a colleague of mine who is involved with colleges and university facilities, this call to action is necessary now, more than ever. I hope that you will pass on this report on to your senators and congress people.

As I am sure you know, the question of how much money to include for construction at universities was one of the stickiest issues for House and Senate negotiators. The House stimulus bill had initially included \$7 billion for higher-education facilities, but senators subsequently struck all funds for new college construction. In response, this report makes the case that by investing \$50 billion in new university teaching and research facilities, upwards of one million new jobs could be created within the next two years. The proposed investment is for new funding, not associated with the current American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Here's the math on how this can be done.

The construction of just one \$50 million science teaching and research building would employ approximately 1,000 highly skilled construction workers. Once built, this science building would employ, on average, 250 teachers, researchers and staff. Therefore, if we were to devote \$1 billion per state for the construction of similarly sized facilities – or a \$50 billion national investment - we would immediately create one million construction-related jobs and 250,000 permanent teaching, research and staff jobs. With 4,276 colleges and universities in the U.S. this impact could be immediate. Throughout our nation there are large numbers of teaching and research building projects which are shovel-ready, to the degree that such construction could start in the next three to six months. I would guess that your institution has projects that fit this category.

The report goes on to provide evidence that this type of investment would have long term positive economic impact through the proven accomplishments of our universities in acting as economic engines in our communities. While I am sending you a hard copy of the report, I am also including the following link so that you can pass it on to others: <http://www.1millionsmartjobs.com/>

I hope you agree that this call to action makes a compelling case for support of the shovel-ready projects on our campuses. As the report shows, **a new investment of \$50 billion would create one million jobs now, while establishing a long-term foundation for the future of our knowledge-based economy.** Please consider contacting your senators and congress people to encourage them to create this type of education investment fund. If you would like more information regarding specific portions of the report please contact Adam Gross at agross@asg-architects.com.

Sincerely,



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