The University at Albany's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences: Advancing UAlbany—and the Capital Region

The University at Albany is seeking $20 million in capital funding to begin renovating the Schuyler Building into the new home of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS). As the region’s only public research university, UAlbany not only provides excellent, affordable higher education for our 17,200 students and generates world-class research that addresses society’s most pressing challenges but also drives economic development, job creation and urban revitalization. We work every day to maximize our impact as a publicly engaged institution—through our research, expertise, and service, as a convener and host of community activities, and as a committed partner in building a better future for Albany and the greater Capital Region.

As part of UAlbany’s largest academic expansion in 50 years, CEAS leverages our existing strengths in computer science, mathematics, and physics. The state Department of Education validated these efforts last year when it approved our B.S. in computer engineering, the first of several undergraduate and graduate engineering programs in development. This innovative new college represents a critical growth area for the University, providing high-quality degree programs that are in high demand with students, parents and employers.

A powerful community resource in the heart of Albany

Central to the design and strategy of CEAS is its location on our Downtown Campus in a renovated and modernized Schuyler Building, a stately but currently vacant Classical Revival building that served as Albany High School from 1913 to 1974. Situated in a walkable, mixed-use historic neighborhood, CEAS will establish new public, private and educational partnerships. UAlbany is also partnering with the city of Albany and diverse community stakeholders to enhance the corridor between the Downtown Campus on North Lake Avenue and Alumni Quad on Partridge Street, creating new avenues for community engagement, neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

The state-of-the-art facility will contain 127,000 square feet of classroom, research and office space, as well as tinker space that’s primed for innovators and entrepreneurs to collaborate to turn big ideas into reality. UAlbany is also partnering with the Central Avenue Business Improvement District to provide more than 20,000 square feet of START-UP NY space in the STEAM Garden, a tech incubator the BID is developing 1,000 feet from the Schuyler Building’s doors. CEAS means smart growth for our community, new jobs and deeper connections between UAlbany and the Capital Region.
Creating a high-quality, accessible public engineering option—and meeting a fast-growing regional workforce need

CEAS’s research-intensive curriculum will produce graduates ready to meet the growing regional and statewide demand for engineers. The Capital Region’s need for engineers is projected to grow three times as fast as the state’s as a whole, according to the state Department of Labor, with the local demand for electrical engineers projected to grow more than seven times as fast.

UAlbany is well-positioned to lead in computer and electrical engineering as it develops new opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship together with cutting-edge research. This will prepare students to excel not just in the engineering sciences but also for careers or postgraduate studies in other fields, such as law, medicine, finance, public policy and management.

Given UAlbany’s diverse student body, which includes the largest percentages at any SUNY University Center of students traditionally underrepresented in engineering careers, CEAS will help boost the numbers of African-Americans, Hispanics and women in the engineering, computer science and computing technology workforce. The college’s emphasis on applied learning, meanwhile, trains students to develop the skills and problem-solving mindset needed to land jobs in their chosen profession and help solve some of society’s most critical problems.

An anchor project dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Albany

The renovated Schuyler Building will add to a rejuvenated Downtown Campus and become a hub of activity in a neighborhood to which UAlbany has belonged since 1909. The facility will catalyze a critical mass of daytime activity on the Downtown Campus and better integrate the Uptown and Downtown campuses into “one University,” linked with program integration and more seamlessly connected with CDTA’s planned Bus Rapid Transit route. To prepare for this future, the city and University jointly funded a study of the corridor around the Downtown Campus last year to serve as a community-sourced playbook for future development.

With its central location, CEAS will be an ideal venue for a wide range of community events and programs. The 1,000-seat auditorium will once again serve as a valuable community asset for local organizations as well as UAlbany faculty, students and our 44,000 alumni who live and work in the region.

United with the diverse community stakeholders who have come together on this game-changing effort, we are poised to make this vision a reality for Albany, the Capital Region and all of New York State.

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