

NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

On or around November 13, 2009, University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc. (“UAS”) will issue a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for operation of college bookstore and related retail activities (“the Bookstore”) for the University at Albany (“UAlbany”) in Albany, New York.

As one of the four University Centers in the State University of New York (“SUNY”) system, UAlbany offers undergraduate and graduate education in a broad range of academic fields at the bachelors, masters, and doctoral degree levels. UAlbany currently has approximately 18,000 students enrolled in 221 programs, served by approximately 4,400 employees, including over 1,000 faculty members. There are currently 145,000 living UAlbany alumni. The University competes inter-collegiately with significant success at the NCAA Division I level.

The Bookstore has been operated by Barnes & Noble College Bookstores since 1981. It currently occupies approximately 15,000 square feet (including storage and office space) in the Campus Center on the UAlbany Uptown Campus at 1400 Washington Avenue in Albany. Gross sales have averaged \$7.3 million per year over the past five academic years. UAS intends to issue a five-year contract to the successful bidder, with UAS holding the option to offer a single five-year, sole-source extension to the contract, based on satisfactory completion by the contractor of the base term. The initial period of the contract covered by this RFP will be from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2015, with the option period running from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2020.

The contractor selected must be a lawfully incorporated, independent entity with proven success in bookstore services demonstrated either by (a) three years of contracted experience on at least three college or university campuses with greater than 4,000 full-time equivalent students each; or (b) relevant and related gross annual sales of \$1,000,000 or more, and a viable business plan for transferring that experience to serve a University community of UAlbany’s size and reputation. UAS welcomes and encourages innovative approaches to Bookstore operations, and will fairly consider all viable bidders, including partnerships between traditional independent or corporate booksellers and retail operators, with one partner being clearly identified as the prime contractor responsible directly to UAS.

To be included on the list of bidders for this RFP, interested contractors or partnerships must prepare a brief Statement of Qualifications (no longer than two pages, single spaced) expressing an interest in competing for this contract, and explaining how they meet the participation requirements noted above. These Statements of Qualifications must be received by UAS before close of business on November 10, 2009 in order to guarantee that interested bidders will receive the RFP.

Statements of Qualifications should be sent by mail or courier service, with confirmation receipt requested, to: University Auxiliary Services at Albany, Inc., Attn: J. Eric Smith (RFP#0904), University at Albany, 1400 Washington Avenue, UAB 232, Albany, NY 12222.