

State senators announce Gen*NY*sis funding for AU biosurfaces laboratory

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State Senator Pat McGee (R-C Franklinville) and Senator John R. (Randy) Kuhl, Jr. (R-C, Hammondsport) announced a Gen*NY*sis grant of \$2.5 million to enhance biosurfaces research at Alfred University. The two senators credit Gov. George E. Pataki and Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno with creating and enacting the new Gen*NY*sis, a biotech economic development program to position the state for the future. "This historic new investment to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for the Center for Biomaterials at Alfred University is going to have a powerful impact on the region, creating new jobs and further strengthening Alfred's role as a leader in biotechnology research," Pataki said. "This exciting initiative, along with our new Centers of Excellence across the State, will promote new economic growth and job creation in the region, while further securing New York's role as a national leader in the high-tech and biotech fields." The funds will be used to upgrade equipment in the University's biosurfaces research laboratory as part of AU's initiative to establish a Biomaterials Industrial Outreach Service (BIOS) Center. The BIOS Center will provide unique services to the biotechnology industry, including fast turn-around bioengineering services and custom production of biomaterials critical to the manufacturers of biomedical devices and for other applications of biotechnology. "I commend Senator McGee, Senator Kuhl and Alfred University for working together to expand and enhance this research laboratory. It will be good for science and good for the economy of the Southern Tier," Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said. "The Gen*NY*sis program represents the state's most significant investment ever in biotechnology and biomedical economic development. It is a rapidly growing field and this investment will build on New York's exceptional life sciences research capabilities to be extremely competitive for biotech businesses and jobs." The grant is part of the \$225 million Generating Employment through New York State Science (Gen*NY*sis) program, created to maximize the potential of life sciences research conducted at New York's public and private academic research institutions. The program is part of New York's initiative to make the Empire State an international leader in high-technology and biotechnology-related research and economic development. Senator McGee said: "Biotechnology research is not just the wave of the future; it's cutting-edge research that's happening right now. With this grant, Alfred University positions itself as a nationwide leader of high-tech research I was excited to help bring about the funding of such a important program to the western part of the state." Senator Randy Kuhl said: "With America poised for rapid growth in the biotechnology industry, it's imperative that New York State become more competitive in this economic arena. The Gen*NY*sis program makes us highly competitive. It's extremely exciting that Alfred University will play a central role to help our region and all of New York State seize the vast opportunities within this industry for economic growth, innovation and, ultimately, great achievement," said Kuhl. "We are pleased that Governor Pataki and state leaders recognize, through the awarding of these funds, the unique role Alfred University fills in biomedical research," said Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson. "Alfred University researchers are internationally recognized leaders in materials characterization and processing, and that means they are experts in designing materials for specific applications." "The effectiveness, reliability and safety of biomedical devices is determined by the way in which the materials used to manufacture them interact with the human body, Edmondson said. Our biomedical materials engineering researchers are leaders in designing and tailoring materials specifically for use in the body." He said that the University faculty and staff now receive four or five requests each week from biotechnology and biomedical devices firms for assistance in developing or characterizing biomaterials. "We believe that our BIOS Center, by meeting those existing demands and an increased number of requests in the future, will become a magnet for drawing high-technology business, research and revenue to Alfred and the Southern Tier," said Edmondson. We will be offering this critical industry segment a service they simply cannot obtain elsewhere."##