

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SENATOR NICK GAUTREAUX APPLAUDS STATE FOR MOVING FORWARD ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITMENTS**

**FUNDS TO PROVIDE \$12.2 MILLION COMMUNITY CLASSROOM AT LSU-EUNICE**

District 26 State Senator Nick Gautreaux (D-Meaux) and District 41 Representative Mickey Guillory applaud the recent announcement that the state will move forward with the construction of a community classroom at Louisiana State University at Eunice. The \$12.2 million will go toward the construction of a two-story facility that will contain lecture halls, auditoriums, tech labs, classrooms, faculty offices, and other academic space. Senator Gautreaux and Representative Guillory have long fought for constructing and improving existing higher education facilities that provide workforce training and other community benefits. Senator Gautreaux says that this project will go a long way in providing much needed additional space for the nurse training program as well as the nationally recognized development education program.

"I am excited about the construction of the new community classroom," says Senator Gautreaux. "Having educational facilities such as this is vital in developing the kind of workforce that Louisiana needs. The decision to move forward with this important project comes at a particularly important time as the university is experiencing its fourth consecutive semester of record growth. Besides workforce training, it will also open up new opportunities for adult evening classes and community enrichment programs."

"As someone who's worked on this project through the planning stages, I'm especially excited to see it moving forward to completion," said Representative Guillory. "When I was first elected I was approached by Chancellor Nunez to help secure funds for this classroom and I, along with my colleagues, have worked on shepherding it through the process. LSU Eunice is a nationally recognized progressive school with many important career training programs. It's an important part of workforce and economic development in our region and we must continue to support it."

The community classroom construction project is part of the state's commitment to use 2007-2008 fiscal year surplus to fund capital outlay projects at two-year and four-year higher education institutions across the state. Because of a backlog in state construction, projects like this have been on hold. Senator Gautreaux says that utilizing surplus dollars for these capital outlay projects will enable work to begin immediately.

For information on this and other important issues, citizens can go to <http://senate.legis.state/la.us/GautreauxN>.

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