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President B. Joseph White's response to Fiscal 2009 Illinois budget proposals

Capital:

"A state capital program is an urgent priority for the University of Illinois as we plan for the future and strive to maintain a 140-year investment by the state in facilities and equipment that are essential to fulfilling the university's missions of teaching, research, public engagement and economic development across our three campuses," White said.

Top U. of I. recommended capital priorities included in the budget:

- National Center for Supercomputing Applications Petascale computing facility, Urbana campus, \$60 million (A total \$208 million project for which state commitment is \$60 million for infrastructure.)
- Repair and Renovation, all campuses, \$10.7 million
- Lincoln Hall Renovation, Urbana campus, \$55.1 million
- College of Medicine-Rockford, Chicago campus, \$14.2 million
- Electrical and Computer Engineering Building, Urbana campus, \$42 million
- Integrated Bioprocessing & Research Lab, Urbana campus, \$18.9 million
- Dentistry Modernization/Code Compliance, Chicago campus, \$20 million

Operating budget appropriation:

"A lack of additional operating revenue creates a challenging situation given inflationary operational costs that the university faces, but we are realistic about the circumstances given the state's budget situation and a soft economy. This puts added pressure on tuition, fees and efficient university management to adequately fund the excellence and access that the U. of I.'s three campuses provide Illinois families. We will work with the governor and the legislature for the best outcome we can achieve," White said.

State Scientific Surveys:

"The University of Illinois strongly supports the opportunity to acquire and fully integrate the four state scientific surveys with the Urbana-Champaign campus to leverage our combined resources and expertise on matters important to the state and its citizens," White said.