



News

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Philadelphia University Announces Plans for a Library to House Senator Arlen Specter's Archives

Support for the Specter library, along with a new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design, included in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget bill

PHILADELPHIA, July 8, 2010—Philadelphia University would receive \$4 million from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to help fund a library to house the archives of Sen. Arlen Specter and a new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design under a budget bill signed July 7 by Gov. Ed Rendell.

The University would be required to provide matching funds for the two capital projects, both of which are renovations of existing buildings on the University's East Falls campus. The matching funds are in place for these projects and work on the library project will begin this fall. Construction on the SEED Center is already underway.

“Philadelphia University is honored that Sen. Specter is interested in donating his archives as a resource for Philadelphia University faculty and students, as well as for scholars, researchers and the community-at-large, on issues relating to public policy, international relations and health care, among others,” said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr. “The collection of papers, case files and memorabilia from Sen. Specter's long and storied career are of tremendous historical significance to the region, the Commonwealth and the country.”

Sen. Specter's collection would be located in Roxboro House, part of the Philadelphia University campus and one of the most historic buildings in Philadelphia. In addition to dedicating the Roxboro House for this endeavor, Philadelphia University has requested the release of a total of \$4 million in capital projects funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—\$2 million for the Specter project and \$2 million for a new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design (SEED).

The SEED Center project will support the Commonwealth's Energy Independence Strategy by serving as a regional resource for architects, engineers, builders and developers, and offering specialized training in integrated project delivery systems, sustainable building design strategies and green product/material integration. This project will result in a LEED-certified center for applied research, education and job creation for the design, construction, development and distributed energy sectors of the regional economy.

These projects are good for the development of jobs, as well as for education and the community-at-large,” said Spinelli. “The Roxboro House and SEED building renovation/restoration will generate design/construction jobs, as well as teaching, research and support staff positions.”

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students to be leaders in their fields through a curriculum that is active, collaborative, connected to the real world and infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.