

# NEWS

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Page 1 of 2

## **Allegheny College to Receive State Support for Center**

MEADVILLE, PA – Jan. 12, 2006– Allegheny College president Richard Cook announced at a news conference today that the college will receive \$1.5 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to assist with construction of a modern theater and communication arts center. Cook was joined at the news conference by State Senator Robert Robbins (R-50) and State Senator Jane Earl (R-49).

RACP is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic and historical improvement projects.

“We are grateful for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s wonderful support of this facility and for the efforts of our public officials in securing this funding,” said Cook. “The theater and communication arts center will strengthen the region’s economy by attracting more students to Allegheny and by drawing more people to the community as audience members and participants in events.”

Allegheny sponsors a number of performing arts series and collaborates with an array of local theater, arts and educational groups to provide cultural programming. The college subsidizes events to make them available to a broad audience. Most of Allegheny’s public events—more than 75 each year—are free, while others are offered at a minimal charge.

“Allegheny plays a key role in attracting and keeping people in the community,” said Cook. “The new facility will allow us to expand our presence as an important economic and cultural resource for the region. Allegheny is one of the Meadville area’s largest employers, and the college’s health is intertwined with the health of this community.”

Architects have worked with Allegheny faculty to design the theater and communication arts center. Among other features, the facility will include rehearsal and instructional areas, video production facilities and a large performance space for hosting public events.

Communication Arts and Theatre is among the college’s strongest and fastest growing academic departments. In recent years, nearly 25 percent of students in each graduating class have either majored or minored in communication arts. Each year, nearly 100 students participate in extracurricular activities such as theater performances and Allegheny’s student television network.

Allegheny College has raised \$18 million in gifts and pledges toward the construction of the theater and communication arts center, which has a projected cost of \$23 million. Fundraising for the building will continue, with groundbreaking scheduled for January 2007.

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*A national liberal arts college where 2,100 students with unusual combinations of interests, skills and talents excel.*