

HPU growth creates jobs

High Point Enterprise

By David Nivens

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HIGH POINT — Expanding academic programs at High Point University will help keep growth alive for several years, President Nido Qubein said Thursday.

HPU [*which added 144 jobs in 2011*], the eighth-largest employer in the city, will have 1,126 employees by August with the addition of 116 new jobs.

New positions include 50 faculty for undergraduate and doctoral programs, administrative staff, food service, security and athletics. The jobs pay an average of \$62,000 with the highest at about \$200,000.

About eight of the faculty positions will go to the new \$70 million School of Health Sciences and the proposed school of pharmacy for which the university is developing a building plan. The projects are part of HPU's \$2 billion, 10-year expansion.

"Most of these jobs are clearly in academics," Qubein said. "That's dramatic."

The numbers do not include the hundreds of construction workers on the expanding campus. The number of employees at HPU has tripled since 2005. Plans call for 400 more jobs in the next five years. The university's annual economic impact has been estimated at \$418 million.

"High Point University is thriving, and we are truly blessed to be able to continue offering employment opportunities, not only through our own hiring, but also through the hundreds of contractors and local businesses who benefit from a growing student population," Qubein said. "This continued growth is a result of our focus on holistic learning and an indicator that students and parents find great value in this university's educational mission."

HPU is starting a doctor's degree program in Educational Leadership in its School of Education and is building a new \$10 million facility located between the School of Communication and the Greek Village.

"We have invested in academics," Qubein said, "and we are attracting the best students and faculty from the best institutions in the country."

The university is on track to grow enrollment to 5,000 traditional undergraduates by 2015.

"We have been able to do all of this in the midst of one of the most disruptive economic times in American history. We have not cut jobs. We continue to grow," Qubein said.

HPU had its largest graduating class in 2011 and awarded 785 academic degrees.

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