

Please see these two newspaper articles about High Point University.

Can-do university: HPU breaks ground on biggest project yet

*By John Newsom
News & Record
Thursday, September 10, 2015*

HIGH POINT — When Nido Qubein took over as president in 2005, High Point University had about 1,400 students, covered 92 acres and was 17th — an afterthought — among other small Southern schools on U.S. News & World Report’s annual college rankings.

Ten years later, the university has expanded to 410 acres and 4,600 students, thanks largely to \$1.2 billion in spending on new classroom buildings, dorms and other facilities and a relentless pursuit of its own vision of excellence.



Governor Pat McCrory hugs HPU President Nido Qubein at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new School of Health Sciences building.



At the ceremony, HPU President Nido Qubein said that the university’s growth in both size and prestige “is the American dream personified.”

On Wednesday, as U.S. News & World Report’s annual college rankings put High Point atop its list of peers for the fourth straight year, the university formally broke ground on its biggest and most ambitious project yet: an \$88 million building that will hold its health sciences school and the Triad’s first pharmacy program.

This growth in both size and prestige, Qubein said, “is the American dream personified. This is what happens when you believe in the fundamental principles that built this country in the first place.

“High Point University had a dream, and we’re living this dream every day.”

In a midday ceremony attended by Gov. Pat McCrory, HPU announced that the health science and pharmacy schools will be named for two business owners, university trustees and longtime benefactors Earl Congdon and Fred Wilson.

The two schools will share a 220,000-square-foot building, which on Wednesday was only just a foundation surrounded by a lot of dirt. The building will have medical simulation labs, a cadaver lab, classrooms, offices and a 350-seat theater. It is scheduled to open in 2017.

Over the rumbling of cement mixers and generators that powered two video screens, Qubein told the crowd of a couple hundred people Wednesday that the new building will add many jobs and students.

About 100 professors and staff members will work there. HPU expects the two schools to attract a total of about 700 students, which should bump the university's total enrollment over the 5,000 mark.

The building will be home to HPU's second and third doctoral programs. The pharmacy program — the fourth in the state — is on track to gain certification and expects to admit its first class of students next fall. HPU expects to launch a planned doctoral program in physical therapy in 2017.

The university will cover construction costs with private gifts and operating revenues.

HPU officials said the university won't take on more debt. Both Congdon and Wilson gave eight-figure gifts — at least \$10 million — to pay for the project. University officials declined to give the exact amount of the gifts.

"The building is an investment that will change lives," said Daniel Erb, the founding dean of the health sciences school.

The project was not completely pain-free. HPU bought numerous homes south of campus, then convinced the city to close Montlieu Avenue to make way for the new building.

High Point Mayor Bill Bencini said that he is pleased that HPU has made such a deep commitment to the city.

"High Point University is High Point's university," Bencini said. "In just one decade, (Qubein) has transformed this campus ... and energized our city."

McCrary said HPU and its new programs will help give the state a competitive advantage.

“If North Carolina’s going to continue to compete, we need (schools like) High Point University to understand we must prepare for our future, not react to our past. That’s exactly what (Qubein) has been doing and continues to do.

“If you stand still, you lose. ... You’ve got to keep growing. You’ve got to keep anticipating. And with that, we all win.”

High Point University sees \$57 million in gifts, pledges during past 14 months

*By Pat Kimbrough
The High Point Enterprise
August 31, 2015*

HIGH POINT — High Point University students returned to classes last week with \$150 million in construction projects underway or recently completed on campus.

- A school of health sciences and a pharmacy school being built.
- The \$22 million Cottrell Hall — a “hub of professional development” for students.
- A \$30 million student housing complex.

The array of projects won’t wrap up until 2017, and there will be plenty more construction activity after that, said HPU President Nido Qubein.

Another \$200 million to \$300 million of projects that haven’t been announced are expected in the next five to six years, Qubein said.

“We have ideas of what we want to do with additional academic programming, athletics and residential facilities,” he said, adding that there are no plans at this time to expand HPU’s campus.

“Thank goodness we now have land to expand,” he said. “It will all be on campus. We have plenty of land. We’re not looking for land.”

HPU announced Friday that it has received \$57 million in gifts and pledges over the past 14 months — all but \$8 million of it from outside North Carolina.

“That is a really important point to make, because when you bring money from across the country and you spend it effectively right here in the city of High Point, we are investing all that money in facilities and resources in our city,” Qubein said.

The tally includes two gifts of \$10 million, three gifts of \$5 million and 17 gifts of \$1 million.

Donors are from New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, Colorado, California and Minnesota.

Since Qubein became president in 2005, the university has raised more than \$275 million without a capital campaign.



Cottrell Hall has recently opened on the HPU campus.

“(The figure) is astounding, to say the least, and we are very, very grateful. It comes from parents (of HPU students) and friends across the country,” he said.

HPU hired 42 new faculty members this year, and has increased its workforce from 385 to 1,425 during Qubein’s tenure.

Enrollment has grown to more than 4,500, with more students coming down the road.

“We’ve said all along, at some point, we want to get to 5,000 undergraduates and about 1,000 graduates,” he said.

The schools of health sciences and pharmacy eventually are expected to bring 700 new students to HPU. The new physician assistant program brought in its first students in June, and the pharmacy school is projected to start classes in May 2016.

The \$150 million building boom is being funded entirely by donations and “philanthropic investors,” as well as operating revenues, according to HPU.

“Not one penny of that is debt,” Qubein said, adding that HPU has \$400 million in net assets. “This is a sturdy, solid, sustainable institution that has a very bright future that is founded on the principles this country was built on. We believe God’s hand is in this work. That’s why we are so humbled and grateful for the blessings that have come our way.”