

Fast Forward

a college update from A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Dean, UF College of Dentistry



To: UF College of Dentistry,

In this third edition of Fast Forward, I am pleased to share information about the new StrengthsQuest initiative and the status of our vision for a building expansion and renovation.

Building Bridges and Bonds at the UF College of Dentistry: StrengthsQuest

On August 12, UFCD begins a new college-wide initiative, Building Bridges and Bonds, to increase trust and communication among faculty, staff and students. We have invited experts from UF's Department of Student Affairs to work with us in developing a vision of the culture we want at UFCD. Building Bridges and Bonds will begin with two activities: the StrengthsQuest assessment and conflict resolution strategies. The activities in this program and the actions that follow focus on developing a culture of community, collaboration and mutual respect among all members of the college and those we serve. At the Annual Staff Retreat on August 27, attending staff members will also have the opportunity to participate in the StrengthsQuest program. I hope that over the next 12 months, more than 50 percent of the college will participate in the initial phase of Building Bridges and Bonds and that you will find it a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

If you are interested in learning more about StrengthsQuest:
www.strengths.ufl.edu

UFCD and the PECO-Eligible Project Requests List

In April, I was asked to update our longstanding request in the University's PECO list for \$3.15 million to renovate 12,000 square feet in the simulation laboratory and other selected locations. PECO stands for "Public Education Capital Outlay" and is the primary source of funding for capital projects for educational facilities in Florida. At the request from Dr. David Guzik, senior vice president for health affairs, UF and president of UF Health, and help from UF Facilities, Planning and Construction, the project's description and cost were updated to reflect a comprehensive \$74.5 million project consisting of a building expansion and renovations to our existing facility.

The plans are based on the Kahler Slater visioning exercise and related activities in which many of you participated. This

UFCD project now stands in seventh place on a list of 18 PECO-eligible project requests - a very high priority for a project as large as ours. While this is not a promise of funding, it signals that we have gained traction and visibility which should help us formulate a plan for fundraising and identify other sources of funds to show our commitment to the project.

The proposed project includes three phases over four years, beginning in 2017-18 should funds become available. This phased approach will help us overcome lack of swing space in the existing building and the need for continuous operations. The project is designed to provide an innovative, collaborative environment, promote interdisciplinary education, provide adequate space for small-teaching labs, incorporate new diagnostic technology, and state-of-the-art research infrastructure all designed with flexible and sustainable features. Phase I consists of site work and new construction (72,300 square feet of new space) west of our existing building with an interface between the new and existing building from ground through third floors.

The change from a small simulation lab project to the full-blown construction and renovation request is an exciting new development for our college. (I've included the latest PECO list for UF for your information.) A new facility and renovations will help us maintain and enhance our standing as one of the nation's premiere institutions in dental education, research and service. I look forward to sharing updates as we make progress towards our future facility.

The next Fast Forward will take a look at some of the exciting things going on in our research mission.

Have a great week!

Kind regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

July 27, 2015