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## State Awards \$18 Million Grant for New Teaching and Research Building

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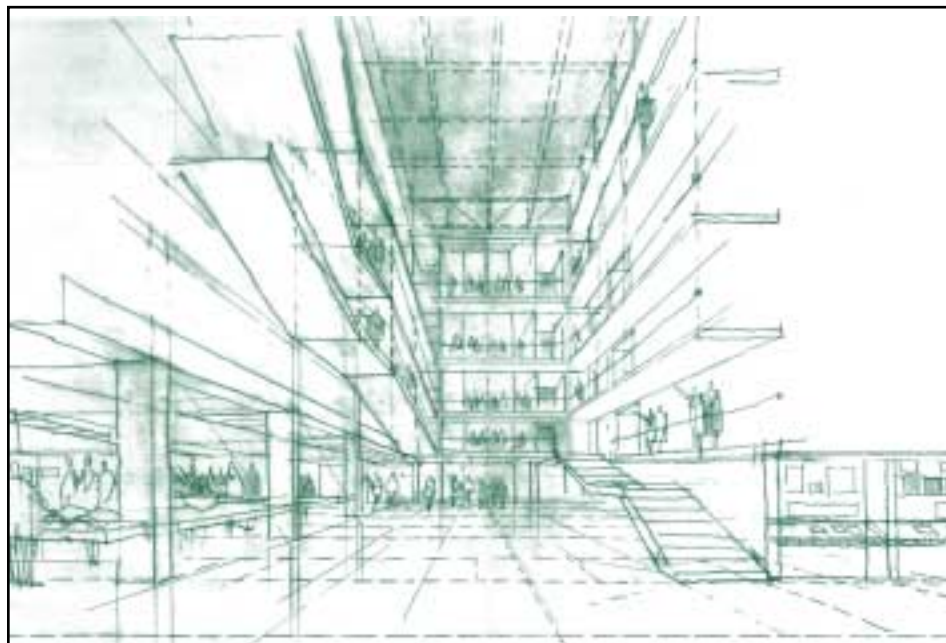
Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge announced that the School will receive \$18 million for the planned new Teaching and Research Building in Philadelphia. The grant, part of a historic agriculture capital investment by the Commonwealth, is a matching grant, requiring the School to raise an equal amount within five years.

“Recognized as one of the finest veterinary schools in the world, our commitment will allow Penn to build a state-of-the-art teaching and research complex to better serve the state’s agricultural needs,” Ridge said during the ceremony held on August 9 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

The \$43 million Teaching and Research Building, to be located at 39th and Spruce Streets, will provide modern teaching, learning, and research spaces, replacing the antiquated facilities currently in use.

“We are grateful to the Commonwealth—to Governor Ridge and the state legislature—for making a grant that will enable us to begin construction of the new Teaching and Research Building,” said University President Judith Rodin during the ceremony.

“Governor Ridge recognizes the important role Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine and its graduates play in maintaining the health, welfare and suc-



cess of the Commonwealth’s livestock, poultry and equine industries,” said Dean Alan Kelly. “We are profoundly grateful to the governor for his support for the new Teaching and Research Building and for so decisively advancing the School’s historic mission. We now have a lot of work to do to raise the balance so this building can become a reality quickly.”

The 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building will connect to the Rosenthal Building by an atrium; the new building’s footprint will cover the current library, a small grassy area, and a parking lot.

The first floor and a mezzanine area will accommodate two new lecture halls, equipped with the latest audio visual teaching aids. The expanded new library and the student computer area will enable students to take advantage of computer-based resources and com-

puter-aided teaching materials. A new student lounge will also be in this area as will be exhibition space.

Three floors will be devoted to Open Plan laboratory modules which will greatly enhance the School’s interdisciplinary research programs. These facilities will enable the School to attract and retain the new generation of research and clinical scientists who will train the veterinarians for the new century. Clinicians and basic scientists will work side by side and students will be exposed to ground-breaking research.

Among the areas of investigation in the new building will be infectious diseases, a major reemerging threat to animal and human health; animal transgenesis and germ cell research, an exciting biomedical research area that promises healthier and more productive food animals; comparative medical genetics, and comparative oncology.

The historic grant to the School is part of a \$90 million commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture; the other two projects are expansion and renovation of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg; and a new Department of Agriculture Livestock Evaluation Center in Centre County. 