



Photos by Bill Cramer

PSU role in grant program improved, Thornburgh says

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — The University this year has improved the quality of its participation in the Ben Franklin Challenge Grant Program, Gov. Dick Thornburgh said Wednesday. Thornburgh said that when University President Bryce Jordan took office last summer, they were both dissatisfied with Penn State's participation in the Ben Franklin Program (BFP), which was created last year to stimulate jobs in Pennsylvania. "My suspicion was that some of the institutions — and perhaps including Penn State — had viewed the program as a means of getting additional funding for research," he said. However, Jordan has shown a commitment to higher quality participation throughout his first year in office and the University could stand to gain appropriations because of it. As one of four advanced technology centers (ATCs) funded by the program, the University's ATC for Northern and Central Pennsylvania

must apply each year for a portion of the state's funds. This year, Thornburgh has proposed a \$20 million appropriation for the BFP — double the funds available last year.

'We regard Penn State as a marvelous resource and it's a challenge for both Penn State and us to galvanize that resource,'

—Gov. Dick Thornburgh

Thornburgh said the funds are allocated to the four ATCs on a competitive award basis by the Ben Franklin Program Board. Members of the board have said the competitive basis provides an incentive for excellence at the ATCs. Because of the competition for

that resource," he said. Last year, the University's ATC requested \$4 million but received only 34 percent of that figure. BFP Board members outlined the reasons for last year's appropriation — the smallest given to any of the state's ATCs — as the following:

General funds toward minority recruitment urged

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — Although state officials are pleased with the University's minority recruitment and retention efforts, the state Secretary of Education said Penn State must use part of its general state funds to continue its efforts, rather than look for a specific appropriation in the proposed 1984-85 budget. Robert C. Wilburn said Wednesday that while working on the proposed state budget, officials did not support appropriating large sums of money for minority recruitment and retention because universities should use their general state funds

to support the efforts. "If it's an important objective to the University it should be supported from University funds," he said. Wilburn, also a University trustee, said he would prefer additional funds be placed into an institution's general budget so the institution would need at least a general commitment to meet the objective. "I think you have to have a commitment to solve the problem rather than having a specific line item and saying 'we'll spend that amount and if it works it works, if it doesn't it doesn't,'" he said. Attitudes and approach can be as important as spending money in solving the minority recruitment

and retention problem, Wilburn said. Last year, the University received a \$200,000 appropriation to be applied to minority recruitment and retention. And although the University will not receive a similar special appropriation this year, Thornburgh's proposed budget includes a 7 percent increase in general funds for Penn State.

The University is now trying to meet a federal mandate to double the number of black students enrolled by 1988. Wilburn said he thinks the state legislature is pleased with the progress that has been made at Penn State this year. "I don't think anyone questions (University President Bryce) Jordan's and the institution's commitment at this point in time in trying to meet those goals, and that's the most important thing," he said. Wilburn added that he believes the University's goal is attainable. "I think the long-term effect on the state as a whole is going to be very positive," Thornburgh said. Thornburgh said Wednesday that state officials are doing what they can in the form of financial aid and interrelationships between the state's two predominantly black universities — Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and Lincoln University.

State leaders stress value of liberal arts education



'We are one of the only states in the country which requires two courses in arts and music to graduate from high school. I certainly wouldn't want to get in the situation where we are unbalanced and lean too much toward science and math.'

— Secretary Robert C. Wilburn

By MIKE KINNEY
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — While math, science and computer literacy are the top priorities in improving Pennsylvania's educational system, the governor and the state secretary of education also believe in the importance of a liberal arts education.

Both Gov. Dick Thornburgh and Secretary Robert C. Wilburn said Wednesday that important communication skills taught in liberal art courses are not in danger of being replaced by technical skills.

"It would not be in the state's best interest to have a computer literate constituency of students who are functionally illiterate because of their lack of grounding in the liberal arts and the ability to write and express themselves," Thornburgh said.

Wilburn said the reason for the emphasis on math and sciences is that the state's requirements were so low before.

"We are one of the only states in the country which requires two courses in arts and music to graduate from high school. I certainly wouldn't want to get in the situation where we are unbalanced and lean too much toward science and math," Wilburn said.

Wilburn said the state has done even more in basic education than in higher education this past year. "We have put in place a program to significantly increase the quality of our public schools. Our program is different than a lot of programs in other states. We

are focusing on improving basic subjects in elementary schools."

In math and reading, the state is going to fund remedial programs for all students who do not pass the state competency exams, Wilburn said.

The program will require an additional \$56 million dollars every year and will require a significant commitment from the Thornburgh administration, Wilburn said.

The governor said the efforts to improve the secondary and elementary schools will not divert attention away from the needs of higher education in the state.

The introduction of the Pennsylvania Honors Program, which encourages high school students to take the most rigorous courses available in high school, will lead to better prepared high school graduates, Wilburn said.

Pamphlets in which the governor urges students to strive for educational excellence have been distributed to all 145,000 eighth graders in the state.

Wilburn said he hopes that two programs to improve the quality of teachers will be implemented by the end of the year. These programs include administering new tests in a teacher's specific area before certification and requiring teachers to enroll in professional development courses throughout their careers.

To improve the quality of education from grade school to graduate school, Thornburgh said that the proposed sale of the state's liquor and wine franchises could provide \$150 million.

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