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"Little good is accomplished without controversy, and no civic evil is ever defeated without publicity."

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West Virginia University

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WVU secures funding for research facility

■ Three different state agencies pulled together \$24 million for project

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Representatives of West Virginia University and state agencies sealed the deal by signing final paperwork for a

\$24.4 million funding package to fund research facilities within WVU Health Sciences.

"This is really exciting and important for this region and for WVU," said Dr. Robert D'Alessandri, WVU vice president for Health Sciences.

Former Gov. Bob Wise announced the package in 2004 and Gov. Joe Manchin, chair

of the Infrastructure Council, reaffirmed the state's commitment to the project, according to a press release.

Three state agencies worked together to create the funding package. The Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council provided \$9.4 million, the Economic Development Authority \$9 million and the West Virginia Housing Development Fund

\$6 million.

"I'm happy the (WVU Research Corporation) could make an impact here," said John Weete, vice president of WVU Research and Development, and first signer.

Joe Hatfield, executive director of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund, heard about the HSC expansion from a meeting in Charleston, W.Va. He con-

tacted WVU Economic Development and D'Alessandri while expressing interest in contributing to the package.

"We decided it was something that was important and something we wanted to be a part of," Hatfield said.

Hatfield's role in the expansion is to make sure it happens. He is hoping that there will be a spinoff for housing development in

Morgantown.

If WVU meets its job creation target of 600 jobs in HSC, \$3 million of loans will be forgiven, D'Alessandri said. Another 800 jobs in the community will be created in the economic expansion.

Expansion in opportunities for WVU students will also arise.

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The facility's funding will lead to more educational and research-based programs for students, D'Alessandri said. It will offer students more choices and expand the num-

ber of graduate students.

The funding package will finance space for neuroscience, cancer, respiratory diseases and infectious diseases, among others, said D'Alessandri.

These are areas that are affecting the health of West Virginians the most, he said