

Economists Predict Bond's Long-Term Benefits to State

By JULIA LAMM
Staff Writer

UNC-system officials say the state's economy will get a boost within the next few years with the new construction projects funded by the \$3.1 billion higher education bond.

While the bond is just beginning to take effect, legislators and economists expect it will aid North Carolina's recovery from the recession that has gripped

the state for the last few months.

Michael Walden, N.C. State University economics professor, said the bond projects' effects on the state economy will be both short-term and long-term.

Walden said the main short-term effect is the new jobs provided to people in the construction industry. "Bond construction will provide jobs ranging from architects to designers to brick layers," he said.

Walden said the long-run impact is the expanded institutional benefits and effects

on students' futures. "Our economy has changed to one where our education has an impact on the standard of living."

Walden said students are spending more time in school and getting better degrees, especially as education becomes more important in today's society.

The immediate impacts upon the economy primarily will be from direct effects of the construction.

J.B. Milliken, UNC-system vice president for public affairs, said the predic-

tions for growth stem from the multiplier effect – the idea that when money is spent, it will be re-spent in the economy, thus stimulating growth. "Every dollar spent on local construction generates between \$2.25 and \$3.75 in the local economy," Milliken said. "The bond is essentially North Carolina's stimulus package during these economic times."

Mike Luger, director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Economic Development, pointed out the local

effects of the bond. "The Triangle has a particular effect because of the concentration (of bond funds) here," he said.

Many of the bond projects are focused in the Triangle area – with UNC-CH, N.C. State, and N.C. Central University getting about \$1 billion of the funding.

Luger pointed out that the bond program will not only stimulate the economy, it also will help workers displaced from other industries due to the recession. Luger said short-term effects will begin

to be seen in the next few years. "Over the next three or four years, you're going to see indicators – less unemployment and less drop in personal income – due to the recession," he said.

Luger stressed the importance of the long-term effects of the higher education bond. "You're going to end up with a better educated population."

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costing upward of \$1 million, and might further slow down airport security measures.

Security measures could further increase in the future because control of airport security will be handed over to the federal government Feb. 17.

While RDU did not see additional delays because of the new security measures, other airports saw somewhat longer lines.

"It was a lot more difficult to get through than normal," passenger Eric Weren said about delays at Newark International Airport.

"We were delayed about 20 minutes because someone had to have their bag taken off the plane," Weren said.

Newark was not the only airport experiencing delays.

"I just came from LAX in L.A.," said passenger Mike Ricker, a California resident. "The lines are much longer than normal."

Ricker said that the security measures he saw were not new.

"It's been the same since September 11," he said. "Just today, the lines were a lot longer and slower."

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very important to recognize the contribution of their courage."

Phillips added that the struggle should not be considered complete.

"In (my speech), I was trying to invoke the audience to think of the movement as a relay race," Phillips said. "One generation will carry the baton and then pass it to the generation beyond."

Hargraves said the modern civil rights movement is more than just a race issue.

"It means to change attitudes," Hargraves explained. "For everybody, for the whole world, we're all looking for a better change. We must have love for each other and respect for each other's cultures."

One resident, Lucille Brooks, recited Rod Kipling's poem "Myself," which describes the importance of taking responsibility for rectifying social injustice in one's community.

Kipling's poem ends with the words "I want to be self-respect and conscience free."

Brooks said the poem is an example of how people should understand their connection with the others.

"It helps people with their life, that you don't need to keep anything hidden," she said.

"I don't want people to hate themselves."

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WEEK

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Center for Public Service.

Events throughout the week will focus on King's ideas about service and social inequality and the need to take action in the community, organizers said.

To facilitate the dispersion of King's message, Terri Houston, director of on-campus recruitment for the Office of Minority Affairs, will mediate a workshop using role playing and small group discussion to foster self-examination. The workshop will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday in Toy Lounge in Dey Hall.

"We will try to develop ideas that people can take away with them," said CUAB President Krisi Young.

Some of the week's events are designed to promote the exchange of ideas and the discussion of current and future race relations. A dinner discussion at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Toy Lounge called "Breaking the Bread" will provide small-group discussions to integrate the viewpoints of different cultural backgrounds. Organizers said they hope to stress the need for continuing service beyond the end of the week.

"This week represents just one day but also how people should strive to live life," Malika-Salaam said. "The variety of events allows people to get together and see the similarities and commonalities that they have."

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