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## Gov. Phil Bryant, UM Chancellor Dan Jones Break Ground for New School of Medicine Building

JANUARY 7, 2013 BY JACK MAZURAK

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Dr. James Keeton, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and School of Medicine dean, told a crowd of ground-breaking ceremony attendees on Jan. 7 that the additional physicians trained at the new School of Medicine building will improve health care in Mississippi and boost the state's economy.

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, state House Speaker Philip Gunn, University of Mississippi Chancellor Dan Jones and other dignitaries unveiled plans and broke ground Monday (Jan. 7) on a \$63 million building that will permit larger class sizes at the UM School of Medicine.

The event marked significant progress toward Bryant's goals of bringing more physicians to Mississippi and growing the state's health care economy. In October, Bryant directed \$10 million in Community Development Block Grant funding to the University of Mississippi Medical Center to launch the effort.

The new 151,000 square-foot building will provide state-of-the-art, flexible and technology-rich classrooms and laboratories. The new space will allow the School of Medicine to increase its incoming class sizes from 135 students per year to more than 165. The five-story building is scheduled for completion in 2016.

"I am thrilled to break ground on this expansion of the School of Medicine," Bryant said. "Mississippi is in need of more bright, skilled physicians to provide quality medical care to our residents and to those patients from other states who seek outstanding care in Mississippi, and this state-of-the-art expansion will allow us to provide better training to even more students.

"Not only will this help us reach our goal of training more physicians to provide better health care access, these new doctors will create a significant economic impact in the communities where they practice. I have said before that health care is an industry of necessity, and Mississippi is taking an important step today to proactively grow its health care economy."

UMMC projects that the larger class sizes accommodated by the new facility will generate about \$1.7 billion in economic impact in Mississippi by 2025 and that the additional physicians trained will support more than 19,000 new jobs by the same year. The current economic impact of practicing UMMC-trained physicians is more than \$6.3 billion annually, and those physicians are estimated to support more than 60,000 jobs in the state.

Existing School of Medicine facilities are cramped, outdated and spread between numerous facilities on and off campus. The oldest are in UMMC's original 1955-era building.

The new facility will improve the Medical Center, as well as the entire university and the state's health outlook, Jones said.

"The university is interested not only in being a fine institution, but also in making a difference in people's lives," he said. "Because of this new medical school, lives will be changed in Mississippi."

Gunn said he understands the importance of producing more physicians for the state, and training them in cutting-edge facilities.

"On behalf of the legislature, we pledge to do everything we can to support this new medical school," Gunn said.



Rendering of the new UM School of Medicine building north face

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OXFORD, Miss. – Eleven University of Mississippi students spent their winter break learning about the people who work behind the scenes of the American government in Washington, D.C. Lead by Jonathan Klingler, assistant professor of political science, the students of Pol 391: Applied Politics met not with candidates, but with the people who make candidates'

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U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to abate. The Federal Reserve's

The new building will help address Mississippi's medical needs, said Dr. James Keeton, UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs and School of Medicine dean.

"Today's ceremony marks a defining step in building the space we need to train Mississippi's next generations of physicians. This new School of Medicine facility directly addresses our mission to educate health care providers for Mississippi's vast medical needs," Keeton said. "We're grateful to Gov. Bryant, the state Legislature and Mississippi Development Authority for recognizing how training more physicians for Mississippi will impact the state's economy, and we're glad to continue working with the state's leadership to improve the future of health care in Mississippi."

Bryant worked closely with the Mississippi Economic Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for growing Mississippi's health care economy, and increasing the state's capacity to train physicians is key component of the plan.

"Blueprint Mississippi's Health Care as an Economic Driver study focuses on the importance of building our capacity of physicians, and the new medical school is a ground-breaking effort toward both attracting and training the best and the brightest," said Blake A. Wilson, president and CEO of the Mississippi Economic Council, the state Chamber of Commerce. "It is another world-class visionary move toward putting our state in the place of greatest opportunity."

During the 2012 legislative session, Bryant signed into law House Bill 317 to establish more medical residency programs throughout the state, a move that will allow more Mississippi-trained physicians to remain in the state. This session, Bryant plans to continue to pursue efforts to increase the number of physicians practicing in Mississippi's most medically underserved communities.

The School of Medicine expansion is expected to create about 930 jobs during construction.

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