

## UNC campus on the Outer Banks

### waits on financing

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THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

A University of North Carolina campus is in the works on the Outer Banks.

The land is a done deal, because of a 34.4-acre gift from Dare County. The building plans are mostly done, with calculations figured for construction.

The start date, however, hinges on funding and is less certain.

The UNC system has asked state lawmakers for \$32.8 mil-

contribute to the area's ecology and economy, she said.

The Coastal Studies Institute has conducted dozens of programs and projects in the last four years, said John McCord, education programs coordinator who works with the community and area schools.

They include: studying the recovery of a Hatteras Island inlet created by a hurricane and filled in by state and federal agencies in 2003;

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#### PRESENT SITE

The UNC Coastal Studies Institute has operated out of office space in downtown Manteo and a converted research lab in Nags Head since its inception in 2003.

Plans call for more than a dozen buildings with 92,088 square feet for research and classroom space, short-term housing and storage space for

equipment and vehicles.

It would be a major step for the UNC Coastal Studies Institute, which has operated out of office space in downtown Manteo and a converted research lab in Nags Head since its 2003 inception.

The UNC system has had plans for an Outer Banks campus since 1994, institute director Nancy White said. It would be a place where scientists and students could conduct research projects that would shed light on the state's northern barrier islands and



## Campus: Plans are mostly done

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figuring out what ocean outfalls are flushing into the ocean from Outer Banks streets; and creating a miniature oyster hatchery at Cape

#### THE REQUEST

The UNC system has asked for half of the expected \$32.8 million construction cost for 2007-08 and the other half for the following fiscal year.

Hatteras Secondary School.

Dare County officially transferred the 34.4 acres to the UNC system in February.

This week, UNC President Erskine Bowles and chancellors from five universities attended a ceremony marking that gift.

The chancellors from UNC-Chapel Hill, East Carolina University, UNC-Wilmington, Elizabeth City State and North Carolina State expressed support for a marine science institute on the Outer Banks, White said.

Those schools and others would work with the Coastal Studies Institute, sharing positions and programs.

The institute's staff and board have spent the last year working out the details of the campus.

Now they are programming and prioritizing projects with a 35-member Scientific Coordinating Committee.

"When the building is built, we'll probably be pacing outside, waiting to get in," White said.

White said she expects to know by late May about state support.

The UNC system has asked for half of the expected \$32.8 million construction cost for 2007-08 and the other half the following fiscal year.

"We're a new program and there is a lot of demand," White said. But "we're seeing a lot of good, positive signs."

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