



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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QuickTakes!

Design-Build Legislation is Top Priority for NJASCU

November 5, 2015

Legislation that would allow the state colleges and universities to use the design-build or construction manager-at-risk method (CMAR) as the means to contract for the construction of buildings will be NJASCU's top legislative priority for the lame-duck period and the new legislative session starting in January. Under the design-build method, the state college or university would enter into a single contract for the design and construction of a building. The construction manager at risk is financially responsible for delivering the project within a guaranteed maximum price.

At a time when public higher education institutions are experiencing cutbacks in state funding and simultaneously increased pressure to keep college costs affordable, the design-build and CMAR models would give the institutions greater financial control over their capital construction costs and ultimately amount to greater savings. Both methods are used by public agencies around the country and are proven to help maximize public dollars and speed the time to completion.

Specifically, the design-build method would:

- allow institutions to have one point of contact for the entire project, saving time and money;
- assign risk and responsibility to a general contractor;
- clearly delineate responsibility in performance terms;
- permit projects with a guaranteed not-to-exceed price; and
- stream-line and save costs on specialized projects, such as science labs and cogeneration facilities.

This bill was recently introduced by Senator Anthony Bucco (R-District 25, Denville) as Senate Bill No. 3234. NJASCU will be seeking co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle, as well as a companion bill in the Assembly.

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11-5-15

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