



October 9, 2003

Memorandum to: Deans, Directors

From: Richard L. McCormick
President

Philip Furmanski
Executive Vice President
For Academic Affairs

Subject: **Academic Excellence Fund**

As you know, we have set aside \$3M to fund a limited number of initiatives directed at achieving academic excellence.

We are inviting proposals from Deans and Directors for awards from this Academic Excellence Fund. The Fund will provide support for initiatives that fall outside the categories typically considered in an annual budget, including but not limited to:

- initiatives that respond to significant opportunities for Rutgers based on our existing academic strengths, comparative advantages, the needs of our undergraduate or graduate students, or the needs and interests of the citizens of the State;
- initiatives that cut across the boundaries of schools, colleges, and disciplines and that advance novel multidisciplinary interactions and ways of thinking;
- initiatives that leverage other resources committed to the furthering of academic excellence at Rutgers.

Proposals should be no more than three pages in length, and should include a budget summary. The maximum that may be requested from the Academic Excellence Fund for any one proposal is \$250,000. All proposals must be submitted via Deans and Directors, in consultation with their faculties, and should have their approval. Deans and Directors may submit multiple proposals from their units if they so choose. Proposals are due in the office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs or in the offices of the Newark and Camden Provosts, as appropriate, by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, November 15, 2003**. Decisions regarding allocation of funds will be made by the EVPAA, together

with the Provosts of the Newark and Camden campuses, with appropriate input from deans and faculty leaders in the relevant areas. Awards will be announced by Monday, December 15, 2003, and funds may be encumbered immediately upon award. Any unexpended funds may be rolled over into the unit's FY05 budget.

We very much hope that all of our academic units take advantage of this opportunity to help move Rutgers forward to the next level of excellence.

Thank you.

c: Roger Dennis
Steven Dinner
Karen Stubaus
Nancy Winterbauer
Roberta Leslie
Linda Schulze