

# Building for the future



University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chancellor Jean McCormack, right, makes a stop in the National Botulinum Lab, part of the university's new research facility, Thursday. McCormack was joined on the tour by, from left, the lab's director Bal Ram Singh, UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Tocco and UMass President Jack Wilson.

## UMD opens \$14.4M research facility

By: Grant Welker , Herald News Staff Reporter

**DARTMOUTH - The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Thursday unveiled its new research building, which Chancellor Jean F. MacCormack said will form an "innovation triangle" with facilities in Fall River and New Bedford to attract business partnerships and students.**

The 22,000-square-foot building features biology and bio-engineering laboratories and will host a high-security research center for bio-technology and bio-chemistry. It is the university's first campus facility devoted entirely to research.

MacCormack said the school has had a vision for a long time of creating a facility - along with the Center for Marine Science and Technology in New Bedford and the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center in Fall River - that will benefit the region.

"We think of ourselves as being embedded in the community," the chancellor said. "It's more than a building, it's a completion of an idea."

The \$14.4 million building was paid for through research funds and without state aid, MacCormack said.

"No one is resting on their laurels here," she continued. "Everyone is thinking about the future. This is the latest stage of a rapid evolution of the university and the region."

The architects, Architectural Resources Cambridge, said it was a challenge to fit the building in among others completed in the 1960s designed by Modernist architect Paul Rudolph.

Rudolph's signature style includes exposed concrete and flat roofs with large overhangs. The architects said they needed to keep consistent with that theme.

"We tried to make the building blend in," said Been Z. Wang, principal of the Cambridge-based firm. "It couldn't be overpowering and we kept it on the same scale and compatible with the rest of the campus."

MacCormack thanked the group for standing up to the challenge.

"They couldn't build a building that doesn't fit in," she said. "We needed an excellent design team."

The building also needed to be designed with safety measures inside and out, including long concrete barriers around the exterior to keep anyone from driving into the building. It is connected by a second-floor walkway to the Violette Research Building.

MacCormack and leaders from the UMass system and local government spoke in the building's largest room, one that will be completed by the fall to house an architectural lab.

"UMass Dartmouth is an asset to the region," said UMass President Jack Wilson, who noted that he's been to the campus on many occasions for ground breakings

and ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

Dr. Bal Ram Singh, who will run the research center on the second floor, said the new facility will help to attract jobs and students.

"I'm extremely excited, not just for me but for the university, too," he said, adding that the difference between the new labs and the facility he had been using was "night and day."

Rep. John F. Quinn, D-Dartmouth, an alumnus of the university, said he remembers when some said that southeastern Massachusetts was the end of the world.

"Now were the center of the world, and now people want to put their businesses here and live here," he said.

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