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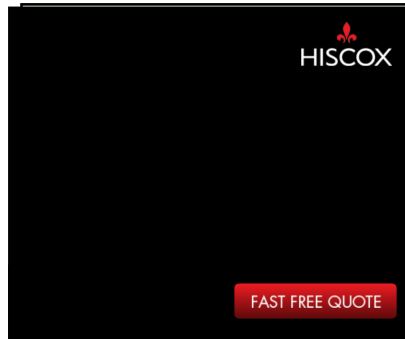
Seeks To Emulate Success Of Triangle Park In North Carolina  
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April 29, 2011 | By MARA LEE maralee@courant.com, The Hartford Courant

The launch of a long-discussed research park at the University of Connecticut in Storrs will be announced Friday by state legislators, business executives and UConn officials.

The park is designed to resemble North Carolina's Research Triangle Park, though it will be far smaller. It taps into longstanding efforts to use UConn research to advance the state's commercial technology sector — efforts that have fallen short of many people's expectations.

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"It's so exciting to see our state leverage strengths of our university," said Sen. Beth Bye, D-West Hartford, co-chairwoman of the higher education committee.

She said the state expected to borrow about \$18 million for site development — the university already owns the property — and then a couple million "to create what they're calling 'innovation partners.' "

The state already has a number of quasi-public and public innovation efforts — UConn's Office of Technology Commercialization, Connecticut Innovations, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology — but Bye said since this will be on UConn's campus, it will have access to a ready workforce of students as interns and faculty.

Bye said she hoped the tech park would be ready in a few years, and she noted that a study suggested the average tech park could lead to 750 new jobs.



Research Triangle Park is a 4,000-acre office park/university facility in between N.C. State, University of North Carolina and Duke University. Its history suggests patience will be needed. It launched with two companies in 1959, but in the first five years, it had little success in attracting others, and the foundation had to borrow \$1.3 million to keep it going.

Six years in, landing a \$70 million federal environmental health sciences center and IBM with a 600,000 square-foot-campus on 400 acres began the momentum. Today, the RTP has 38,000 workers at more than 170 companies, and another 10,000 contract workers.

Matthew Nemerson, CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council, said there's a hunger at the state's businesses for more partnerships with universities. He said even though the scale of this project isn't analogous, he's glad it's happening.

"We can never give up being a leader in research and development," Nemerson said. "I think all across Connecticut we have to enhance that capacity. I think we have to be also strategic about the fact it's not going to happen only in Storrs."

Hundreds of students who are majoring in science fields, and faculty members from the engineering school, are expected at the announcement at 1 p.m. at Gampel Pavilion.

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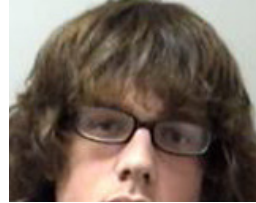
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