

School of Medicine Building for Las Vegas

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The probability of the University of Nevada School of Medicine having a building in Las Vegas is a little closer to reality.

At a recent meeting of the University of Nevada System Regents, the school's request for a 40,000-square-foot teaching and clinical building was included in the capital construction request the Regents will forward to the 1993 Legislature.

Medical school dean Dr. Robert Daugherty says, "We know funding for new buildings will be very tight in the next session and we know the state may have more pressing needs. But, being on the Capital Improvement Projects list gives credence to our project. The Regents' endorsement allows us to begin site deliberations and gives us the go-ahead to find some funding on our own. Because this is a building in Las Vegas, for our Las Vegas programs, we hope the community will be receptive to a fund-raising campaign."

The need for the building is acute, the dean adds. The school currently has 25 full-time teaching faculty members who live and practice in Las Vegas; projections in the school's strategic plan call for an increase in that number in the next 12 to 18 months. Faculty are now housed in rented space at University Medical Center, but there is no where to expand.

"Las Vegas is where we will grow in this decade," Dr. Daugherty says. "By the year 2000, our third- and fourth-year students will spend the majority of their time in Las Vegas, because our clinical specialty and sub-specialty programs will develop there. We're excited. Las Vegas is a dynamic community that is supportive of medical education and it's a community that still needs doctors to keep pace with the increasing population."

Dr. Daugherty says the school is looking for a 25 to 45-acre site and will explore funding options through private means to get the project going.