



**Testimony**  
of  
**Dr. Ali A. Houshmand**  
**President of Rowan University**  
before the  
**Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee**  
on the  
**FY2019 Higher Education Services Budget**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me back before this committee as you consider the FY2019 Budget for Higher Education. I am pleased to report that Rowan University is on the rise and is achieving its goal of increasing access and affordability for all New Jersey students.

The State's investment in Rowan University and its designation as a comprehensive research university has produced visible benefits. The campus is flourishing, and more New Jersey students have access to an affordable higher education than ever before.

The investment by the State through the "Building Our Future Bond Act" has allowed Rowan University to increase its enrollment to 18,500, thereby, providing greater educational and career opportunities for students throughout the State.

Rowan is the fourth largest university in New Jersey, and since the establishment of its two medical schools – the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) and the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), it has continued to attract high quality medical students. Applications for both medical schools total over 11,000 for only 230 spaces.

Funding from the "New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Restructuring Act" and the "Building Our Future Bond Act" have been the catalyst for increased economic development not only in Glassboro but in all of southern New Jersey. On an annualized basis Rowan University produces \$1.23 billion in statewide economic impact, supports 9,200 jobs and generates \$19 million in State tax revenues. Rowan University is now the educational and economic development center for the southern region of the State.

Most significant, however, Rowan remains committed to its mission and its Four Pillars; Access to education, Quality of education, Affordability, and being an economic engine in Southern New Jersey.

- Because of your efforts, quality higher education is once again within the reach of New Jersey's families, reversing the tide of students who leave our state to pursue college degrees. Those students are now choosing to remain in-State, becoming part of a better educated workforce that entices businesses to launch or relocate in New Jersey.
- In the next 10 years, Rowan's strategic plan includes increasing enrollment to 25,000 students, improving diversity, increasing research funding to \$100 million annually, increasing Rowan's endowment to \$500 million, expanding academic offerings for in-demand areas such as science, technology, business, engineering and medicine; all efforts that will positively impact the State's economy.
- To address the projected critical shortage of doctors and nurses, Rowan is educating and training quality health care professionals to care for the residents of our State - through the growth of Rowan's two medical schools, the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) and the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) and the establishment of the Rowan-Rutgers-Camden College of Health Sciences.
- The "Restructuring Act" partnered Rowan with Rutgers-Camden in a unique collaborative effort to develop health sciences programs in Camden. This initiative will address the region's critical health care needs by educating professionals and fostering research in a variety of health disciplines.

The State's investment in Rowan has already been repaid many times over and the State continues to reap benefits. One example is the \$350 million Rowan Boulevard project which has regenerated the entire town of Glassboro and the area.

We continue to attract outside investment in the South Jersey Tech Park with a growing number of patents and international companies wanting to conduct research with University faculty and students.

## **Bond Act Benefits**

- Funding from “The Building Our Future Bond Act” funded the two new greatly needed buildings.  
Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering  
Rohrer College of Business

These state-of- the- art facilities has allowed us to double our enrollment in the STEM majors and critical IT programs in STEM and business education areas and move us toward our goal of enrolling 25,000 students by 2023..

## **College Affordability Measures**

- Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC) and Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) are proving to be models for the country.

The innovative partnerships are already increasing access and providing affordable education to our most underserved counties by providing a new route to a 4 year degree at savings of over \$20,000 to students.

Higher college costs hurt students and families, especially those with low and moderate incomes. Rowan, in collaboration with our partner colleges, has developed innovative programs to address the disparity. Partnerships between 2 and 4 year institutions create real opportunity for a college education for students from all backgrounds by ensuring seamless pathways to an Associate’s degree on through to a Bachelor’s degree.

## **Industry Partnerships**

- Public-Private partnerships continue to attract business and industry to the region.
- Our new student housing is the result of public/private partnerships that are successfully transforming the campus, and providing the infrastructure necessary to meet the demands of the increased student body with private dollars in place of public debt.
- Rowan is focused on developing greater capacity that will enable the University to provide broader access to higher education at a lower price while continuing to find innovative solutions to develop a better skilled workforce for New Jersey’s business community.

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee, I thank the Committee for your vision and support of our mission.

I invite all of you to visit Rowan's medical schools and campuses in Camden and Stratford as well as our main Glassboro campus.

I look forward to working with you to develop innovative solutions that will offer an affordable and accessible education to every student in New Jersey, and that will lead to the development of the most highly skilled workforce in the nation.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of Rowan University.