

[<<Back](#)

Grand opening of biotech center in Buffalo

BUFFALO, N.Y. Governor Pataki will be on hand for the grand opening of the University at Buffalo's New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

The university calls the new center an important milestone in Buffalo's transformation from a postindustrial, rust-belt city into a major hub for groundbreaking life-sciences research and spin-off biotechnology industry.

Pataki proposed the creation of the Center of Excellence in 2001 as part of a plan to jump-start the New York State economy through creation of high-technology centers of excellence across the state.

The four-story building that houses the Center of Excellence was constructed by New York state at a cost of 52 (m) million dollars. State funding for the center and its programs to date has totaled 89 (m) million dollars.

The center also has received 28 (m) million in direct federal funding and about 60 (m) million in private funding.

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