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# Temple undertaking massive campus projects

Philadelphia Business Journal - by [Natalie Kostelni](#) Staff Writer

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**Temple University** has launched \$400 million in construction projects to be completed over the next five years on its main campus. It's an effort by the school to remain competitive and move away from its reputation as a commuter school.

Temple continues to grow in its surrounding neighborhood and remains one of the city's key economic development drivers.

The capital program comes as the state school lingered in the shadow of the University of Pennsylvania, which spent \$1 billion over the last decade on a variety of construction projects aimed at attracting and retaining the best students and professors. Penn's work also helped improve the safety and appearance of University City in West Philadelphia.

Temple's projects are part of the vision of President David Adamany, who took the helm in 2000 and mapped out plans to upgrade the North Philadelphia school's classroom and research facilities as part

of its desire to draw top-notch students and educators. The school has seen enrollment swell to all-time high of 34,000 students and the number of applications for its freshman class increase. For the 4,000 first-year slots it has available, the school receives 17,000 applications. Its average SAT scores have gone up by 100 points.

"We are becoming much more selective," said Clay Armbrister, senior vice president for administration. "The Temple that many got into many years ago is much more difficult to get into now."

The projects include a new \$75 million **Tyler School of Art** and a \$67 million addition to the **Fox School of Business and Management**. Some of its other projects bolster the school's science and research capabilities. To that end, a new \$150 million medical school is being planned, along with construction of a \$16 million technology center. The school also anticipates another round of capital work in the next few years renovating its principal science lab buildings, which total 495,000 square feet, and its other research and wet lab space.

**Temple University Health System** will announce next week details for new administrative headquarters to house 700 employees off campus.

The projects are part of a bigger shift for the school, tied to its desire to transform itself "from a historic commuter school to a more residential university," said Greg Rost, Adamany's chief of staff.

Over the last five years, Temple has doubled the number of students living on campus to 8,000. It aspires to increase that figure, despite a continuing shortage of campus and just-off-campus housing.

Temple is having a spillover effect in its North Broad Street community by spurring investment by private developers.

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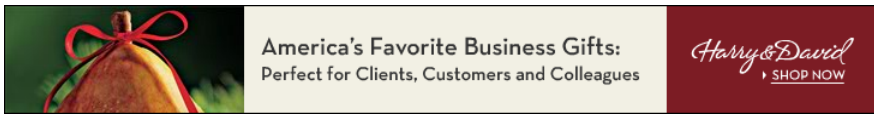
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