

## Historic College in Financial Jeopardy



Central State University is one of Ohio's historic colleges playing a prominent role in the black community. However, in a recent press statement, the university's president admitted to needing an additional \$33 million in funds from the state in order to remain the Buckeye State's single public black college.

The financially struggling Central State University made this request in the best interests of its students and their families, devising a plan that would improve the quality of education and college affordability. The request could supply the necessary means to upgrade the campus and classroom buildings. Additionally, the funds could be used to improve the offerings of academic programs. Finally, addressing the important and growing problem of students foregoing college due to a lack of affordability, Central State University could increase the amount of funding available to low-income students.

Central State University President John Garland told the Ohio Board of Regents of his intentions and their significance to the black community, educational community, present students, and future enrollees. "We add much value to the lives of our students and their families," Garland said. "A college education is one of the greatest tools for growing the state's black middle class."

Garland emphasized that receiving the \$33 million and implementing the aforementioned plan is crucial to Central State University's future. The potential allocation of funds breaks down in a more detailed manner, as follows: an estimated \$23 million would finance the construction of a new student center, and the remaining \$10 million would allow Central State University to, over the next three years, make other renovations to the campus and devise an expansive financial aid plan to encourage student retention and future enrollment.

In an Associated Press article, Matt Leingang reports, "If endorsed by the nine-member Board of Regents at a meeting today, the plan would go to the state legislature for final approval."

This isn't the first time the historic university in Ohio has met with financial hardships. Around 10 years ago, Central State was on the brink of closing down its campus because of financial worries and other impediments. On CSU's website, the university speaks to its unshakeable perseverance: "Today, the University is once again engaged in rebuilding, after weathering a storm of a different type-political turmoil and financial instability-in the 1990s. Under the administration of President John W. Garland, the University has renewed itself, emerging as a stronger institution on all fronts, from academics to administrative affairs and fiscal management, from student services and enrollment to campus facilities."