

WASHINGTON - Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) announced that the Jefferson State Community College system will receive a \$100,000 grant for safety and security projects at its campuses.

The U.S. Department of Justice has officially awarded the grant to Jefferson State. Bachus obtained the funding in the FY09 omnibus appropriations bill.

The public safety project will help Jefferson State purchase equipment for a video monitoring system for buildings at its Jefferson County, Shelby County, Pell City, and Clanton campuses, with the goal of providing a secure environment for students, faculty, and citizens. Funds will also be used to install mobile data terminals in police vehicles and for the installation of a campus beacon system.

Congressman Bachus said, "Under President Judy Merritt, Jefferson State has always put the safety of students, employees, and visitors first. These technology upgrades have been proven to enhance security and make campuses safer."

President Judy Merritt said, "This will allow the college to make great strides for additional security at all our campuses. Our campuses are open 14 and a half hours per day, and we need as much technical help as possible to make sure our students can feel secure while on the grounds. Congressman Bachus has been absolutely wonderful in helping the college help itself."

The funds will be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.