

## CSI to launch big drive for new campus

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Armed with a consultant's report that recommends that the College of Staten Island relocate to the grounds of Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook, CSI officials launch their campaign for a new campus this week.

The kickoff will be Thursday, when members of a state task force on disposition of the Willowbrook property will discuss the college proposal for the first time. In upcoming weeks and months, the college proposal needs the approval of the board of trustees of the City University of New York (CUNY), which meets Jan. 28; the task force and the state Office of General Services; Gov. Mario Cuomo, and the state Legislature.

The consultant's report released earlier this month recommends that the college try to obtain 187 acres of the 300 acres being vacated. The property requested by the college includes about 30 brick buildings.

If all goes as planned, the new campus could be ready for occupancy by January 1989, according to Donal Farley, CUNY vice chancellor of facilities planning and management. But he acknowledged that the time frame

is "relatively optimistic" and chances are that it will take five years before a new campus is ready.

The first hurdle has already been crossed: After months of scrutinizing the options, private consultants hired by the university have determined that the state-owned Willowbrook property is the best choice on all counts for the new campus, which would consolidate CSI's present Sunnyside and St. George facilities.

A major advantage of relocating CSI to Willowbrook is that the college could utilize facilities left vacant by the center. The move also would entail an extensive revision of the Willowbrook grounds, according to university officials.

University officials and the consultants say only eight to 12 of the existing buildings would be renovated — providing between one third and one half of the building space needed for the college. The remaining existing buildings would be demolished and new facilities — such as a gymnasium and a student commons — built to fit CSI's more specialized needs.

Farley said the available open space would be more than enough to accommodate the needed facilities and the property's woodlands would be left intact.

The area requested by the college carves through the middle of the Willowbrook property, but excludes the Karl Warner Complex and the SIDC property along Forest Hill Road including Corson's Brook Woods and the Institute for Basic Research in Mental Retardation.

Of the buildings that CSI would preserve, "you're really talking about just reusing the shells," said Farley. He said the inside of the buildings would be gutted, leaving only the outside walls and floors.

Besides using the buildings, CSI could also utilize much of the infrastructure already in place at Willowbrook. While the current heating plant would need replacement, a massive system of steam tunnels is already in place that the college could use for utility lines, Farley said.

Water lines and storm and sanitary sewers also are already in place and are "more than adequate to meet any anticipated future demand." The college could also utilize the existing roads and parking lots on the property, although both would need expansion to accommodate the estimated 5,200 students who use the college's two present campuses each day.

"I can't imagine wanting any more than the 187 acres," Farley said, adding it would provide ample room for expansion.