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UB, state team up to create high-tech jobs incubator

By Noelle Frampton
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT — A new initiative by the University of Bridgeport and a state technology and innovation authority is expected to spur new jobs by helping to develop new businesses.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced Tuesday the "CTech IncUBator," a partnership between Connecticut Innovations, the state's quasi-public authority for technology investing and innovation development, and the university.

Based on the UB campus and scheduled for occupancy by early summer, the initiative will be Fairfield County's first and only university-based incubator for high-tech startups, according to Rell's office.

The governor hopes it will foster economic development and stimulate job creation in the region.

"Small businesses account for eight out of 10 of our state's new jobs every year," she said in a written statement released Tuesday. "There is strong evidence showing businesses that participate in incubators like CTech tend to do better over the long haul, so we expect this initiative to go a long way toward ensuring the success of the next generation of high-tech leaders in our state."

The partnership will provide resources in-

cluding mentors, research facilities and faculty, student interns and discounted or free business advice from partner sponsors.

It will initially focus on attracting participants from the several key industry sectors: information technology, digital media, advanced materials and clean technology.

"It is very appropriate to have a technology incubator on this campus, given the well-known history of the University of Bridgeport in developing high-technology, innovative interdisciplinary-research projects," said Tarek Sobh, dean of the UB School of Engineering and vice president for research and graduate studies. Sobh noted UB's research endeavors that include developing the U.S. Army's next generation of unmanned aerial vehicles and sponsored projects in the areas of biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and wireless computing.

For information or to apply, entrepreneurs may contact Gad Selig, the university's associate dean of business development and outreach in the Graduate Studies and Research Division, at 203-576-4870 or gadselig@bridgeport.edu; or Charles Moret, managing director of business development at Connecticut Innovations, at 860-257-2333 or charlie.moret@ctinnovations.com.