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STAMFORD

Rowland tours UConn campus

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STAMFORD — Calling it part of his rebuilding Connecticut tour, Gov. John Rowland took a close-up look the downtown University of Connecticut campus yesterday, speaking with students and faculty.

"It's a chance for me to go back and see what programs have started, talk to the professors talk to the kids," Rowland said. "This is kind of a chance to see and measure the outcome."

Enrollment has increased 50 percent at the downtown campus, the former site of a Bloomingdale's, since moving from the old campus on Scofieldtown Road.

A mix of more modern technology, new partnerships with local corporations and the convenience of a campus less than a half-mile from the downtown train station have helped increase enrollment, college administrators said.

Rowland toured the campus with

several officials, including UConn President Philip Austin and state Sen. William Nickerson, R-Greenwich, who also represents part of Stamford. Vice Provost Jacquelyn Joseph-Silverstein led the tour. She said that the student body attending the downtown campus has become more diverse.

Students in the past often attended school in Stamford for two years, then transferred to the main campus in Storrs or another school, she said.

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Sox to face Yanks

Kevin Millar of the Boston Red Sox celebrates his team's 4-3 win over the Oakland A's last night to clinch the American League Division Series. Boston plays at New York tomorrow night to begin the American League Championship Series. For more on the game, see Sports, Page C1.

AP Photo



Lisa Doran of Westport, right, and her husband, Alan, adopted 2-year-old Ellie, left, from an orphanage in China. The Doran Rachel, center, was an excited about the arrival of her sister as her parents were.

UConn

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While that remains true for many, a growing number of students are earning their four-year degrees in Stamford.

Rowland's tour centers around areas of the facility built in conjunction with local companies. He spent time with students in the edgelab, a partnership between UConn and Stamford-based GE Capital where students work on computer solutions to business applications.

They could not discuss some of the details of their work with Rowland because it will be used in future GE Capital products or systems that will be shielded from competitors.

One project students were working on was a computer program that tracks macroeconomic data for 12 countries and how the figures might affect the value of a portfolio of mortgages.

For example, the program would track how unemployment in a particular country might affect the number of late payments. Other students were working on a project involving the tracking of trailers with a satellite-based geographical positioning system.

Rowland said he will be visiting all of UConn's satellite campuses as part of his review of building projects at the school.

A new round of building, called 21st Century UConn, is entering the planning stage. It is the second phase of a construction program that began as UConn 2000, a 10-year capital improvement program for the school that started in 1995. The Stamford down-



Paul Desrosiers/Staff photo

Gov. John Rowland tours the Stamford campus of the University of Connecticut yesterday with Vice Provost Jacquelyn Joseph-Silverstein.

town campus was the first project to be completed as part of UConn 2000.

State bonding for capital projects has been slowed, but not stopped, because of ongoing fiscal problems.

Rowland yesterday said the construction projects at the school would continue despite the budget crunch. He said the state also would provide the necessary funds to keep new programs operating that have been made possible by the new facilities.

"Most other public universities are not investing in

their campuses, even in their students," Rowland said.

"UMass is getting rid of 11 varsity programs and because of the economic downturn they're not making investments in the physical plants or in the curriculum and we're maintaining our commitment."

Rowland was at ease with the students he encountered. Philippe Desrosiers, 24, a graduate of Westhill High School, saw the governor in the hallway and, with disposable camera in hand, asked Rowland's deputy press sec-

retary, John Wiltse, if he could take a picture of him with the governor.

Rowland spent a few minutes with Desrosiers, asking about his studies and joking that before he would take a picture Desrosiers should take off his University of Michigan jersey and don a UConn one instead.

Later, Rowland leaned over the second floor balcony and joked to students in the lobby below. "Your parents just called. They wanted me to check up on all of you. Get back to work!"