

SENATOR SANTORUM IN CLARION COUNTY TO DELIVER MAJOR FUNDING

September 1, 2005 -

For Immediate Release

Contact: Robert Traynham (202) 224-0610

Clarion, PA – At a press conference today, U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, delivered major funding for Clarion County.

Senator Santorum joined several Clarion County Commissioners and other local leaders at the Trinity Point Biotechnology Industrial Park to deliver \$1 million in federal funding he secured for a major project in Clarion County. The funding will be used for the widening of State Route 68 south of the Interstate 80 Interchange which continues north to Clarion. The funding was included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA LU), a transportation funding bill which reauthorizes federal funding for surface transportation programs through fiscal year 2009.

"I am very pleased to bring this funding to Clarion County today," said Senator Santorum. "In my leadership role in the United States Senate, I have worked very hard to ensure that the transportation needs of Pennsylvanians were addressed in the transportation funding approved in a bipartisan fashion by Congress and signed by President Bush last month."

"We certainly appreciate Senator Santorum taking a personal interest in Clarion County and the projects that he has supported to make Clarion County a player in the overall economic development of this area," said Dave Cyphert, Clarion County Commissioner. "We are so thankful that he has seen fit to aid and assist us in our development plans in Clarion County."

"The Route 68 corridor is congested and needs safety improvements," said Bob Skarada, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional and Development Commission. "These funds will cover the costs of making those necessary improvements."

Additionally, Senator Santorum presented the Clarion Transit Authority with \$660,000 in federal transportation funding for replacement buses in Monroe Township.

"I would like to thank Senator Santorum for his support in obtaining funding for a new fleet of buses for the Clarion Area Transit program," said Dave Tedjeske, Director of Public Safety at Clarion University. "Clarion's fixed route program began in August 2000 and has succeeded due to a joint commitment by Clarion University, its students, Monroe Township, and the Clarion community. Funding for new buses will benefit the local community as well as many current and future University students."

Before departing Clarion, Senator Santorum presented \$100,000 that he secured in the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus appropriations bill to Clarion University and the Northwest Commission for CONNECT/NWPA. The Department of Education funding will be used to expand broadband and wireless technology in the region and enhance biotechnology and nanotechnology education options and support of Clarion BIZ/Biotech Incubator Project at Trinity Point.

"Senator Santorum is to be applauded for his commitment to broadband and technology education in Northwest Pennsylvania," Christopher J. Beichner, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives. "By enhancing our telecommunications infrastructure we will gain a competitive advantage in attracting and retaining quality employers, who create high quality jobs for the region. Our educational institutions will be able to offer diversified experience through new and unique learning tools, and our hospitals will be able to keep up with the ever changing needs of doctors and their patients."

###