



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOARD APPROVES STATE FUNDING MATCH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CAREER TECHNOLOGY CENTER

MONROE, Mich. – At its regularly scheduled meeting tonight, the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to make \$8.5 million available – through funds held in reserve and gifts it has received – for the college’s 50 percent match for the construction of a 71,300-square-foot Career Technology Center.

The facility was included in the State Building Authority Financed Construction Authorization signed into law Dec. 21.

The total authorized cost for the facility is \$17 million, with \$8,499,800 coming from the State Building Authority, \$8.5 million from MCCC and \$200 from the state general fund.

Under the same resolution that made the funds available, the Board authorized the intent of the college and The Foundation at MCCC to move forward on a capital campaign that will allow MCCC to adjust the contribution amounts between college reserves and gifts while still providing its \$8.5 million share of the cost of constructing the Career Technology Center.

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The facility will provide infrastructure to support state-of-the-art classrooms and lab space required to deliver instruction and skills necessary to secure high-growth, high-demand and high-paying jobs.

It will allow for the updating and expansion of existing programs now housed in the East and West Technology buildings, which are inadequate to meet modern technology needs.

These include program areas such as nuclear engineering, welding, construction, computer-aided drafting and manufacturing, electronics, quality assurance, and automotive engineering and service with an emphasis on hybrid and battery technology.

In addition, the Career Technology Center will provide facilities and equipment necessary for the development of programs in the emerging areas of advanced manufacturing; alternative energies such as wind, solar and fuel cell technology, and sustainable and green technologies.

“The new Career Technology Center will dramatically increase MCCC’s instructional capacity for existing and new technology programs in response to the needs of our existing local business and industry,” said Board Chair William J. Bacarella.

“And, this new facility will be an important economic development tool for Monroe County as we market Monroe to companies in emerging energy and automotive technologies – wind, solar, nuclear and battery. The building design incorporates the flexibility to adapt to changing instructional and employers needs for local companies like DTE Energy, Ventower Industries and others.”

Bacarella said that he believes Gov. Rick Snyder’s leadership initiative on the new Detroit River International Crossing project, coupled with the DTE Energy’s efforts to secure licensure for a new nuclear power plant in Monroe will ultimately be successful.

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“When that occurs and those projects begin, Monroe County will be at the virtual epicenter of two of the largest construction projects in the state, the region and the nation,” he said. “MCCC must be ready, and with this building, we will be.”

The single-story facility will be located in the campus corridor between the Life Sciences Building and the Welch Health Education Building. It is anticipated that construction will begin in July with occupancy in September 2012.

It will house high-bay technical labs designed as flexible spaces that can be reconfigured as programs and training needs evolve. Each of the labs will have access to adjacent labs in related disciplines and to the exterior via high bay doors that will allow for delivery of specialized equipment. Access to the exterior also will provide opportunities for larger-format demonstration equipment like solar arrays, geothermal well fields and wind turbine equipment.

The building will also contain traditional classroom spaces and labs, administrative functions and faculty offices.

As part of MCCC’s commitment to energy-conscious design and sustainable building practices, all materials and systems in the Career Technology Center will be selected with the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system in mind. The facility itself will function as a learning tool for the principles of energy efficiency and environmental design. It is anticipated that the project will receive Gold-level LEED certification.

“The significance of having solar, battery storage and, hopefully, wind integrated into the [MCCC] campus and overall grid in our region should not be underestimated,” said Gregory Adanin, CEO of Ventower, a full-service fabricator and supplier of wind turbine towers that is constructing a manufacturing facility in the Port of Monroe.

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“This is truly the cutting edge technology of integrating renewable sources of power alongside traditional nuclear and fossil sources of generation right here in Monroe, Michigan, while making our power grid more reliable and efficient for all.”

“The Board of Trustees made another historic higher education decision for Monroe County tonight when they voted for the construction of the Career Technology Center, which will be located within walking distance of the new \$3-million Detroit Edison solar installation being constructed on MCCC’s campus,” said MCCC President David E. Nixon.

“This facility will serve as a model for the teaching of alternative energy programs. The planning and vision that have gone into making the Career Technology Center a reality are a testament to the dedication our trustees, faculty and staff have to the future of Monroe County.”

MCCC is currently in the State Building Authority’s **Preliminary Design Development Phase**.

This phase includes:

- A project management agreement requiring the following:
 - A letter certifying that the college has in its possession the funds that fully satisfy the 50 percent match requirement for the project
 - Proof of ownership of the property; and
 - A Phase I environmental survey of the property
- Preliminary design and planning submittal that further refines the planned project providing more detail and definition

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- Preliminary design review by the Department of Management and Budget – Facilities Administration (DMB-FA). If approved, the College will be notified that it may proceed to the next phase.

The next phase is **Final Design/Construction Documents**. At this point, MCCC will work with the architect to prepare the final design and construction documents that take the project to the level of detail required for bidding and construction. This is submitted to the DMB-FA for Final Design/Construction Documents Review. If approved, the college will be notified that it has been authorized to bid the project.

The next phase is **Bidding and Award**. In this phase, the College will bid the project, tabulate the results and send the tabulations to the DMB-FA for approval. Also in this phase, the college is required to provide its cash flow projections for the project. Once approved, the college will be authorized to award the construction contract.

Following all of this, the College can then proceed to the **Construction Phase**. It is estimated that 100 temporary construction jobs will be created by the project.

The following is the schedule the College submitted to the DMB outlining the proposed timeline for these activities:

- Preliminary design: February 2011
- Review and DMB-FA approval: February 2011
- Final design: May 2011
- Review and DMB-FA approval: May 2011
- Bid: June 2011
- Review and DMB-FA approval: June 2011
- Construction contract award: July 2011

- Construction begins: July 2011

For architectural renderings and more information on the Career Technology Center, please go to the Finance and Operations section of MCCC's Web site at www.monroeccc.edu/finance/.

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