

NEWS RELEASE

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New construction accommodates campus growth

PINE CITY, Minn. – Pine Technical College’s landscape is changing as the college is in the midst of several construction projects necessary to accommodate its growth. Over the past few years, the college has experienced growth in enrollment, an increase of staff and faculty members, and growth in the variety of programs available to students and services available to students and the community.

“We’re seeing the investment in our future take shape, and at the moment, that translates to a handful of structural changes,” says President Robert Musgrove, Ph.D. “Our master plan includes a focus on using the space available to meet the needs of our community and our growing student population,” Musgrove explains.

The college recently acquired a 1,144 square-foot house, built by students in Pine City High School’s building trades class. The house sits at the northwest end of the campus and once ready, will house PTC’s Child Care Resource & Referral department. At the south end of the campus, a 3,500 square-foot storage facility is being built, which will serve as a storage building for the college’s Facilities Department, as well as house college vehicles and other equipment. The house is nearly ready at this time; the storage facility is on schedule for completion by the first week in Dec.

Inside the college’s main building, the ever-growing Nursing Department and an all-new Wellness Room are on track to move into the area vacated by Child Care Resource & Referral. Construction of the Wellness Room is funded through a recent federal health training grant the college was awarded in Oct.

“We’re very excited to bring the Wellness Room to PTC. It will serve as a place of peace for students as they move through the ups and downs of college life,” says Director of Nursing, Krista Hoekstra. “For example, it will be a calm and inviting place where students are able to meditate. Also, it will serve as a more private place for breastfeeding mothers on campus. We want our students to relieve stress and discover a healthier and more balanced way of living while remaining efficient and productive,” Hoekstra explains.

The college also is making progress toward building an Entrepreneurship Center and Technology Business Incubator. PTC’s current Continuing Education and Customized Training building will undergo significant construction and remodeling to house the incubator. Ground-breaking for this project is

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tentatively set for April, 2012, and the incubator's first tenants may begin operations from the center sometime during the Fall, 2012 term.

"It is our vision the incubator will serve as a solid foundation for highly successful companies," says Musgrove. "PTC can offer promising start-up companies a nurturing environment for growth as well as opportunities to tap into a rich network of business resources that are invaluable to a company's development."

The new Entrepreneurship Center and Technology Business Incubator will house light manufacturing and technology-based businesses working toward producing innovative products or services. The facility will be designed to house two to three start-up companies simultaneously, as well as comfortable meeting space. Additionally, the facility will be designed in a resource-efficient manner, using renewable energy.

Pine Technical College, established in 1965 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, serves more than 1,200 students and awards certificates, diplomas and associate degrees. PTC's notable programs include accounting, American Sign Language, automotive technology, business administration, business technology, computer programming, computer science, early childhood development, gunsmithing technology, network administration, practical nursing, precision manufacturing/machining (CNC), public welfare financial worker, and many more.

PTC is a proud member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which is comprised of 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 277,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 157,000 students in noncredit courses. PTC is accepting applications for new students in all programs; spring courses will start Jan. 9. For more information, call 320-629-5100.



Photo above: Construction continues on the college's new storage facility at the south end of campus.

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Photo above: The new house, built by students in Pine City High School's building trades course, is readied for occupancy at the northwest end of the campus.

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