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Rowan-Cabarrus Community College has hired a biotech faculty member and created a leadership position for technical services.

As the college prepares to open the state-of-the-art training facility at the N.C. Research Campus, Dr. Carol Scherczinger has joined the RCCC faculty as program head of biotechnology.

"Carol is very student-centered and makes science non-intimidating," said Dr. Martha Corjay, dean of biotech, science and math.

Corjay, who held the faculty position previously, said she chose Scherczinger in part because of her background, including work as a criminalist in the forensic biology unit of the Connecticut State Forensic Laboratory.

As program head, Scherczinger will teach multiple courses and supervise other biotech faculty members.

Scherczinger earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Cornell University and a doctorate degree in molecular and cell biology from the University of Connecticut. She lives in Rowan County.

RCCC also has hired James Livornese to serve in the newly created position of associate vice president of information technology services and chief information officer.

Livornese will manage the work of RCCC's technology services department, which provides vision and leadership for the planning, development and implementation of information technology initiatives to improve the college's operations and programs.

Livornese comes to RCCC from Central Piedmont Community College.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Frances Marion University and earned a graduate certificate in management of information technology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He lives in Charlotte.

By the end of last semester, more than 130 students had declared biotech as their major, Corjay said.

That number likely will grow when the college's biotech labs and classrooms move to the new building in Kannapolis this summer.

"We anticipate some growth in the program with the new building," Corjay said. "We are preparing folks for jobs that are here now, and those in the near future."

RCCC offers a two-year associate degree in biotechnology. Eventually, the college will add a degree in agricultural biotech.

"We anticipate initiating that program once we occupy the new building," Corjay said.