



Students return to class as RCCC expands

By Justin Vick

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CONCORD - Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's South Campus came alive as students returned for the first day of fall classes. Officials expected close to 5,000 students at its multiple campuses Monday.

In between classes, Esperanza Westover recognized a couple of co-workers among class photos of recent nursing graduates displayed along a short hallway in Building 2000.

Westover, who works at Suburban Pediatric Clinic in Concord, is taking prerequisites courses toward a nursing degree so she can eventually move into a physician's assistant program.

"I like where I work, but education is really what's going to take you somewhere higher," she said. "If you are planning to grow, it's the only way."

Meanwhile, Tina Schultze had just finished registering for classes Monday in the packed South Campus Student Center and picked up a newspaper to kill time as she waited for her friend to get through.

Though Schultze has worked at Cleveland-based Freightliner for 14 years, the Huntersville resident is pursuing an associate's degree in cosmetology because she likes doing hair and hopes to teach it one day.

Just down the hall, Rebekah Taylor of Kannapolis scanned numerous shelves in the campus bookstore looking for medical terminology and business math textbooks as other students waited patiently in cashier's line.

A newly constructed building on the South Campus will offer a full schedule of courses come spring, said Jerry Chandler, RCCC's senior vice president.

Increasing the South Campus overall square footage by 50 percent, the building will provide space for additional classrooms and faculty offices. The 40,000-square-foot building will also house more student activities with a new student center, cafeteria and bookstore.

The focus will then shift to a new building on RCCC's North Campus in Salisbury, as well as renovations to the 1000 and 2000 buildings on the South Campus.

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