



Officials narrow bond targets to four projects

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SALISBURY - When the North Carolina Community College System directed colleges in September to submit its top three construction priorities needed by 2013 in the event of a statewide bond referendum, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College initially identified 13.

The college has since settled on four projects, based on the age and condition of existing facilities and long-range plans, said Jerry Chandler, senior vice president.

But the projects are not set in stone, Chandler said, noting the college will have the opportunity to re-evaluate them if a statewide referendum for community college construction were to pass.

The last occurrence of such a bond referendum was \$600 million in 2000.

Before then, brick and mortar was traditionally a responsibility of local governments, said Audrey Kates Bailey, spokesperson for the N.C. Community College System. It still is, she said, but the state provides support because some counties don't have the funding necessary to meet construction needs.

Projects that will be recommended to the North Carolina Community College System are:

- Renovation of Salisbury campus buildings (\$5.2 million). Renovations would follow the completion of Building 400, which will begin construction in the fall. The addition of the new facility will free up space in the North Campus' three existing buildings, Chandler said. Most of those were built 30 or 40 years ago, he said.
- Construction of public safety facility (\$15.3 million). The college proposes the training facility be located on 25 acres accessible to emergency service providers in Cabarrus and Rowan counties. The demand for such training has increased since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Chandler said. The facility would also consolidate training RCCC provides for law enforcement, fire personnel and other emergency workers at multiple locations.
- Construction of multi-purpose classroom building on Concord campus (\$7.3 million). The proposed 26,000 square-foot building would provide additional support for classes offered in the South Campus' three existing buildings. Much of the grading and parking accommodations were made during the construction of Building 3000, which opened in the spring semester.
- A new allied health and science building on Salisbury campus (\$20.8 million). Chandler said there haven't been any construction or renovation projects involving allied health programs at the college in more than 30 years. A 67,000 square-foot building is proposed to expand shrinking classroom and lab space in light of enrollment growth.

Noticeably absent from any funding discussion of potential bond projects has been RCCC's building on the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

Irvin Newberry, chair of the Board of Trustees building and grounds committee, said the college is awaiting biotechnology funding from the state legislature.

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