



Construction on RCCC building ready to go

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KANNAPOLIS - Construction on the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College building at the North Carolina Research Campus is ready to go. All that is needed is the money.

The North Carolina Community College system submitted has requested about \$3.1 million for the lease and outfitting of the building - about 65,000 square feet of new classroom and lab space for RCCC's biotechnology programs.

Tom Sanctis, head of commercial construction for Castle & Cooke, said he expects construction to begin on the RCCC building as soon as the General Assembly approves the funding.

RCCC spokesman Jeff Lowrance said the community college hopes to be in the building by the end of 2009.

RCCC has started two associates degree programs in biotechnology and agriculture biotechnology.

The college is working with Gaston Community College to set up a program in clinical research, to train workers for pharmaceutical companies, Lowrance said.

When PPD, a clinical research company, joined the research campus in April and promised to bring 300 new jobs to Kannapolis, RCCC went to work to set up a clinical research program to pull students from the Charlotte metro region and train them for the jobs, Lowrance said.

While the Core Research Laboratory and the UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University buildings are nearing completion, another building site is ready for construction - the medial office building, located on Loop Road, near the intersection of Mooresville Road, will house a branch of Cabarrus Family Medicine and an imaging center.

In April, Carolinas HealthCare System announced it would be the exclusive health-care provider for the research campus.

Sanctis said construction on the 160,000-square-foot building should begin in the next two months. The build-out time on that building is about 14 months.

"We'll probably have to do the outfitting of the building for them (CHS)," he said. "But we are on schedule in the general construction timeline. We initially thought they would start earlier, but then we took a more managed approach at looking at the buildings."

CHS will only occupy about half of the space in the building. Sanctis said there would be space available for other tenants, but did not say if there were any interested.

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