



KANNAPOLIS — All documents for the building on the North Carolina Research Campus have been signed, updated and are on the way, said Carol Spalding, president of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, on Tuesday at the board of trustees meeting.

The community college will have a groundbreaking ceremony for the building on Friday, and Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton, R. Scott Ralls, the president of the North Carolina Community College System, David Murdock and Sen. Fletcher Hartsell are expected to attend.

The building will be used for the college's biotechnology degree programs. It has taken two years to reach this point after financial difficulties.

"(The ceremony) is our chance to thank everybody who's worked so hard to get here," Spalding said. "It is very good news that the footing is already forward on this one."

The college hopes to have the building ready for the fall 2010 semester.

Also expected for the fall 2010 semester is the classroom building 400 on the North Campus in Salisbury, a two-story, 38,000 square-foot unit. It will be used for the continuing education department, community programs, computer classes, GED classes, law enforcement training and other purposes.

The college is looking forward to making the building LEED certified, which means that a building is environmentally compatible and stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The expectation is that this building will be the first in Rowan County to be LEED certified.

Some of the requirements for this certification have to do with the amount of recycled content is used in the building and the amount of materials purchased within the region.

The college is projecting that 21 percent of the building will have recycled content and more than 35 percent of materials purchased will be within the region.

The construction is 10 days behind but the progress is good, said vice president Jerry Chandler. So far, the site has been cleared, erosion control has been established, the building pad has been constructed and mulching has been cleared, Chandler said.

The building is expected to be completed on March 10, 2010.

Board members expressed excitement over the progress of the buildings, especially as enrollment numbers have been increasing.

As of Tuesday, the summer semester enrollment has increased by more than 50 percent compared to last summer, said Gaye McConnell, vice president of student services.

She said the economy has been the driving force behind these numbers, and the college has increased course offerings, the number of seats in courses and scheduled more classes so that they do not overlap.

At the meeting, the board also approved the selection of two deans and a human resources director.

Martha Corjay, a Huntersville resident who has been a member of the RCCC faculty since June 2008, will be the dean of biotechnology, science and math.

The new dean of liberal arts and general education will be Yolanda S. Wilson, who is currently employed with Mitchell Community College in Statesville.

Tina Hayes, who currently works as a human resources consultant, was approved as the human resources director.