

The PRO Report

EDA's Philadelphia Regional Office Monthly Newsletter

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Community College of Philadelphia Gears up for Green!

Community College of Philadelphia (CCOP) broke ground on a \$31 million expansion and redesign of its Northeast Regional Center, on Friday, Oct. 3. The multifaceted project is expected to create the first nationally certified, "green" college facility in Philadelphia.

U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, who helped the College obtain a \$1.6 million federal grant for the project, was on hand to assist Stephen M. Curtis, the president of Community College of Philadelphia, in celebrating the momentous event attended by a host of other dignitaries. "I like what I see at Community College of Philadelphia," Specter said. "I very much appreciate the tremendous work you are doing here." U.S. Representatives Allyson Schwartz and Patrick Murphy, who were unable to attend, also assisted the College obtain a federal grant for the Northeast Regional Center (NERC) project.

Using cutting-edge, eco-friendly technology and construction methods, the College plans to build a new 58,000-square-foot, three-story building, which will be adjacent to the College's existing 60,000-square-foot Northeast Regional Center. Work on the NERC is expected to be completed in 2010. The new building is designed to enhance the educational experience for the College's 34,000 students. The NERC project will include cutting-edge, green features and is expected to qualify for a silver rating under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council for new construction. It is expected to become the first LEED-certified, higher education facilities in the city.

A key component of the NERC expansion and redesign is a geothermal, heating and cooling system made possible by a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The grant also will help support a new Institute for Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing, which will offer certificates in bioprocessing (fermentation) and process technology (process control/petrochemical) at both the College's NERC and Main campuses that can lead to an Associate's degree in Applied Science and Engineering Technology. The Institute will also offer skill upgrading for incumbent workers.

The NERC addition will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and technology that will enhance learning opportunities for students. The additional space will nearly double the NERC potential enrollment capacity to 2,850 full-time students. Once completed, the project will enable the College to address enrollment demand and to enhance current program offerings in Accounting, Business, Culture Science and Technology, Education, Justice, Liberal Arts, Honors and Management," President Curtis said. "In addition, several new programs will be offered at the NERC, including Emergency Medical Technology, Computer Forensics, Health Services Management, Biotechnology: Bioprocessing, and business and industry training."

EDA's Core Mission

To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American Regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy

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CCOP Goes Green, Continued



Image of the proposed Northeast Regional Center at the Community College of Philadelphia; Courtesy CCOP

Highlights for the Northeast Regional Center

- *Integrated One-Stop Student Services Center which will include Admissions, Placement Testing, Registration and Financial Aid offices*
 - *Instructional space for new Emergency Medical Technology and Biotechnology programs*
 - *Geothermal heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system that uses the earth for heating and cooling*
 - *LEED Registered Silver project built to high performance standards outlined by the U.S. Green Building Council*
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The decision to build to LEED standards is expected to place the College at the top of the class among the city's higher education institutions in addressing environmental issues that contribute to global warming. Thomas R. Hawk, vice president for Planning and Finance and Treasurer, said the College has been committed to sustainable design and building operating concepts for more than a decade. "We wanted to pursue this approach both for the positive financial benefits and for the message that using sustainable design strategies sends to our students and the larger communities we serve," Hawk said.

Community College of Philadelphia enrolls approximately 34,000 students annually at its Main Campus, three Regional Centers and various locations throughout Philadelphia. The College offers day, evening and weekend classes, as well as classes on the Internet.

A recent report by The Milken Institute -- a publicly supported, nonpartisan, independent think tank -- documented that Philadelphia is among the elite centers of the country for growth and potential in the Life Sciences. The expanded NERC also will include a significant amount of seminar and technology-rich space that can be used to address the educational needs of the Northeast Philadelphia business community. It will link Northeast businesses to services offered by the College's Corporate Solutions which is based on the Main Campus. It will also offer new educational opportunities such as a Small Business Management certificate program and Real Estate Appraisal workshops. There also will be new student amenities, including expanded dining services and an expanded bookstore.

The NERC addition will have a "green roof," and its geothermal heating and cooling system will utilize the difference between the underground and surface temperatures to regulate building temperature. The savings on utilities means the geothermal system will pay for itself in about six years. The building also is designed to harvest the maximum amount of daylight possible, to reduce the need to use lights. A storm water management system will collect rain water runoff from the green roof and from nearby residential homes for use in flushing systems in the NERC, reducing water consumption and managing storm water runoff from the campus and neighboring residences.

EDA Introduces Single Application

EDA rolled out its new, streamlined single application form, the *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900) on October 1, 2008. The new Form ED-900 is available on the EDA website and at www.grants.gov and is ready for use by applicants for all types of EDA assistance. All other EDA application forms are no longer to be used.

The new Form ED-900 consolidates all EDA-specific requirements into a single application form and replaces EDA's previous suite of application materials: (i) the *Pre-Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900P), (ii) the *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900A), and (iii) all program-specific components required to complete the ED-900A. We will continue to require additional government-wide federal grant assistance forms from the Standard Form 424 family and certain Department of Commerce forms as part of the application package.

The new single application form will significantly reduce the paperwork burden on applicants and government personnel. According to Paperwork Reduction Act estimates approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the introduction of the new single application will reduce applicant burden from a combined 46 hours to complete Forms ED-900P, ED-900A, and the program-specific component to Form ED-900A to 22 hours for the Form ED-900. In addition, because the new Form ED-900 consolidates all EDA requirements into a single application, EDA anticipates and encourages increased electronic application submission through www.grants.gov.

In the Field: Lowell, Massachusetts

On September 17, Regional Director Willie Taylor and Alan Brigham Economic Development Representative for Maine and Massachusetts visited economic development leaders at the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) in Lowell, Massachusetts. NMCOG is one of the thirteen regional planning agencies within Massachusetts; the Council works with the communities of the Greater Lowell region to support and enhance a wide range of land use planning objectives. While visiting NMCOG, Taylor and Brigham toured economic development projects and private organizations in the Greater Lowell region including Lowell-based Xenith Co., which is developing helmets designed to better protect athletes from serious head injuries; and Telles, a joint venture between Metabolix and Archer Daniels Midland.

Taylor and Brigham also attended NMCOG's 45th Annual Dinner in Lowell, where Taylor addressed about 100 people as the event's Keynote Speaker where collaboration was the theme of the evening.

"Opportunities come out of challenges and challenges are met with collaboration and cooperation," Taylor said. "We learned as children on the playground that we are stronger when we work together."

Robert Jefferies, a Westford selectman and representative of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) also addressed the group and sighted strong interconnections among Greater Lowell communities as the key to economic development in the region.

"As interconnecting towns, we have to work together," Jefferies said, "Economic development is the linchpin of what we do, and any economic development that takes place in any one of the member towns benefits all member towns." Northern Middlesex Council of Governments has primarily been a planning and transportation organization, but as it moves into economic development, Jefferies said it's critical that member communities get on-board.

James Silva, chairman of NMCOG's board of directors, listed the agency's accomplishments in the past year. Which included assisting the town of Tyngsboro in the creation of a town center master plan and helping to establish priority development sites in the cities of Lowell, Billerica, Pepperell and Tewksbury Massachusetts. NMCOG aided the Town of Westford in drafting an economic development portion of its master plan; developed open space and recreation plans for Dracut and Tyngsboro; and assisted the Town Chelmsford in developing a master plan. "I think we'd all agree that these economic development plan benefits the entire region," Silva said. "And that is what NMCOG is all about -- regionalization."

Executive Director Beverly Woods said the upcoming year's main focus will be on the newly-established non-profit portion of the agency, called the Northern Middlesex Economic Development District. It will focus on economic development and affordable housing issues across the region. Woods said the agency is seeking private funding, as well as funds from non-profits and private foundations, to move forward.

Taylor, was impressed with the NMCOG's current achievements and commended the organization for leading the region's economic development efforts through a vision of collaboration across Greater Lowell.



Willie Taylor, director of the federal Economic Development Administration's Philadelphia office, chats with Lowell City Manager Bernie Lynch at the annual dinner of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG).

Project Profile: Boston Massachusetts UMASS Venture Development Center

The new Venture Development Center at the University of Massachusetts Boston that is designed to bring outside industries into the school with the lure of faculty collaboration and cheap rents is nearing completion.

The Venture Development Center is UMass Boston's state-of-the-art collaborative innovation center. The VDC's program delivers seasoned business development guidance, meeting areas and flexible, reasonably priced lab and office space for innovative teams from inside and outside UMass Boston to use while they are engaged in mutually beneficial entrepreneurial activities.

"We're [a] small [university] surrounded by giants," said William Brah, assistant vice provost for research and executive director of the venture development center. "We want to be a great university, and we think we can be one, and one of the ways we're going to do that is to build a facility like this."

The 18,000-square-foot facility is being touted by university and state officials as a means of attracting more partnerships between UMass Boston and technology clusters in the region, which would in turn lead to increased funding for research and make the campus more attractive to top-tier faculty. The Center is outfitted with four wet labs and two dry labs, as well as ten offices, which are expected to be licensed for 18- to 24-month periods. The Center will also feature space for conferences, presentations, and meetings. Two-thirds of the space will be dedicated to "non-hard sciences." The VDC will also house a coffee bar, around which Vice Provost for Research Richard Antonak hopes "A-ha!" moments will happen as researchers cross paths in what he envisions as "a home away from home for visionaries.

The campus hopes to attract outside companies into the new space by offering rents that would be closer to the prices found in central Massachusetts, Brah said. The space would also be open to potential early stage commercial ventures that are developed within the campus by faculty or students. UMass Boston will collect revenue through rents and possible licensing or royalty fees for technologies that are jointly developed by campus staff and business located inside the center if they are successfully commercialized.

The Center is the result of funding collaboration between Federal, State, and local agencies. The Department of Energy provided \$1.4 million for the VDC's feasibility study, demolition, and construction; Massachusetts State Senator Jack Hart's 2005 economic stimulus bill, aimed at investing in science and technology innovation in the state, provided \$5 million; \$1.5 million came from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, which recognized that the state's "innovation economy" had largely bypassed the economically distressed Dorchester community; while \$10 million from the state's life sciences initiative will help fund a new cancer research center in partnership with Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Institute.

As the Center approaches opening day, Assistant Vice Provost Brah continues to look to the future. "We want to make investments in creative ideas that will build our reputation, which in turn will help us recruit faculty and students," he explained, citing the creation of Google while its founders were at Stanford. "We want to make investments that will endear us to local and federal government officials and improve the standing of the university. I know we'll have achieved that success when I'm interviewing a prospective psychology professor or student—or the next provost!—and they tell me the reason they want to come to UMass Boston is because of the VDC."

"The Venture Development Center is a clear symbol of the aspirations and direction of UMass Boston. Through it we bring the innovation economy to often-bypassed areas of our city and region."

- J. Keith Motley, PhD, Chancellor, UMASS Boston

Important Dates & Announcements

RLF Semi-Annual Report Update

October 31 is the deadline for the submittal of Semi-annual Progress Reports for all RLFs. The current Form ED 290S, is available on the EDA website, at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Directives.xml>. Please use the version of the form that is available on the website. All other versions of the form have expired, and should not be used.

The web-based reporting structure for RLFs is progressing nicely. The reporting structure is in the testing stage. We anticipate that web-based reporting will be ready for use for the reporting period ending March 31, 2009.

EDA is in the process of transferring the information obtained from the paper Semi-annual Progress Reports into the web-based reporting system. It is very important, therefore, that each Semi-annual Progress Report is accurate, or errors will be migrated into the web-based system. All RLF administrators should carefully review all information on the Semi-annual Progress Reports to assure that all information and calculations are correct.

Kia Booker Achieves Milestone

PRO Team Member Kia Booker became one of the first people in the Philadelphia Office to complete the Management Concepts Federal Grant Management Certification. The eight (8) course certification is recognized as the benchmark for grants training and is recognized across federal government agencies. Congratulations Kia!



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