

MCC Breaks Ground on Technology Building



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 25 YEARS, the golden shovels turned earth at Mitchell Community College. From left, Jeff McKay of the Greater Statesville Development Corporation, Chester Middlesworth with the State Board of Community Colleges, Mooresville Mayor Al Jones, MCC President Douglas Eason and Danny Hearn of the Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce broke ground for a technology/workforce development building.

Community members, Mitchell Community College employees and area officials gathered last week at a site on West Front Street for the official ground breaking of the first new building to be constructed by the college in a quarter century.

About 75 people watched as MCC President Dr. Douglas O. Eason and members of the board of trustees officially turned the first shovels of dirt for the Technology/Workforce Development Building being constructed beside the Continuing Education facility on W. Front St.

"This is a special event for the college and the community," Eason said. "Days like today occur because so many people get involved in the planning and funding and find a way to make it happen."

Plans for the \$4 million, 30,000-sq. ft. building arose out of the College's 10-year master facilities plan completed in 1999. A technology building was one of the most pressing needs for the community, according to the plan. The construction of a workforce training facility was listed in the long range goals, but a collaborative effort between Mitchell Community College, the Board of Trustees and the Iredell County Board of Commissioners led to the decision to construct a facility meeting both needs.

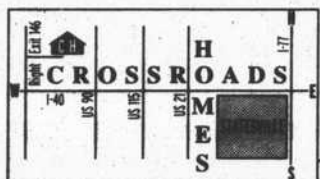
The building is expected to be ready for fall semester 2005. Four college programs, electronics engineering, machining, heating/air conditioning and CAD drafting, now housed on MCC's Main Campus will be relocated to the new building. There will also be space for the College's Small Business Center, additional classrooms, a conference room and training facilities.



ERIN RYAN, a junior at South Iredell High School, recently won third in state competition in the Voice of Democracy Speech contest sponsored by The Veterans of Foreign Wars. Erin's speech was "My Commitment to America's Future". Ryan won first at the local level, Post #2031 and District 14.

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