

# Forsyth Tech's new technology building set for 2005 completion

**SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE**  
Forsyth Technical Community College is constructing a five-story, 85,000-square-foot technology building on its Main Campus at 2100 Silas Creek Parkway. The building is scheduled to be completed by spring 2005 and ready for occupancy in the fall of that same year. The new building will house the college's Thomas H. Davis iTEC Center.

The cost of the building is about \$8.7 million (construction only — not including furnishings or equipment). In addition to the iTEC Center, which encompasses Forsyth Tech's computer related programs, the building will have

29 classrooms/labs, four wet labs, three lecture rooms, one training room, a bookstore, the student government association office and a student vending area. About 60 faculty/staff offices will be housed there.

The new technology building was made possible through a state bond referendum passed in 1999 and a Forsyth County bond referendum in 2000. This is the first new building construction on the Main Campus since 1996.

To watch the construction progress, go to [www.forsythtech.edu](http://www.forsythtech.edu) and look for the "Main Campus Expansion" link at the lower left portion of the screen.

## Weight

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Another review that combined data from several large population follow-ups suggests a little extra weight might actually be a good thing for American blacks. Both men and women appeared to live a bit longer than usual if their BMIs were in the overweight but not obese category.

Some question the significance of the racial comparison. They say that since blacks die younger than whites, the studies might underestimate the health effects of weight or fail to account for weight loss that results from underlying diseases.

"I don't think a direct comparison of the relative mortality risk in blacks and whites is helpful," said Shiriki Kumanyika, an epidemiologist at the University of Penn-

sylvania. "You would have to know the circumstances that influence death across the BMI distribution in the black population."

Still, if blacks truly suffer fewer consequences of modest weight gain, she and others speculate that differences in body fat distribution might partly explain why.

Fat is thought to be most dangerous if it is packed around the internal organs. This kind of fat is most biologically active, throwing off cholesterol levels and forcing up insulin levels.

Overweight blacks tend to have lower levels of harmful triglycerides and higher amounts of protective HDL than do similar-size whites, and this might be due to where their fat is deposited. Blacks tend to carry a larger proportion of their fat in a layer under the skin rather than deep in the belly.

## Parsons

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Richard Parsons is a name that is familiar to many in the business world. His success has earned him a leadership role among African-Americans. The qualities that make him successful — his focus, vision, concern for the community and ability to motivate others — are the attributes we look for in A Better Chance Scholars. These things make

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## Grant

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Black College Wire contains news, opinion, feature and sports stories from HBCU student newspapers. Other publica-

tions may use the stories if the news service is credited, Stewart said.

Portions of the grant will go to Hampton University for First Amendment Watch, Howard University for audio streaming and The Maynard Institute for Journalism Education for Web management. Black College Wire also receives in-kind support from Washington Post-Newsweek Interactive.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of 26 U.S. communities.



Photo by Courtney Gaillard

Middle school student Imana Bilal prepares a hand-made rocket for launch with the help of a teacher, Sarah Fletcher.

# Summer science and math program encourages kids to reach for the stars

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD  
THE CHRONICLE

Middle school students couldn't travel to the Kennedy Space Center for a day so they turned the back field of Atkins Middle School into a temporary launch site last week where they fired off handmade rockets for the SciMax program. SciMax, short for Science and Math Excellence, is a two-week enrichment program for middle school students funded by the National Science Foundation.

The students, who posed as members of space crews, spent three days constructing the rockets. After counting down the liftoff, a student and a teacher would send the spacecraft off. Onlookers cheered the rocket on as it made its ascent. All heads looked upward to see it shoot to the clouds with great speed. For these kids it was a fun lesson in rocket science. The students will also spend a few days building comets out of dry ice and ammonia as part of a lesson on the solar system.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools partners with Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University to offer the program. WSSU School of Education Dean Donna Benson said, academic camps like SciMax are becoming popular with kids because the kids enjoy learning when it's made fun.

"Everything is hands-on and performance-based," said Benson. "We're really pleased."

Nearly 80 high school students also took part in the Math Science Education Network (MSEN) at Atkins. This program was introduced to N.C. schools 15 years ago.

Sue Davidson signed up her granddaughter, Dysteni Shepperson, for the SciMax program because she's spending the summer with her grandmother. Davidson said her granddaughter's participation in organized educational activities on her sum-

mer break can only help her during the next school year.

"Math and science for females is just tremendously important," said Davidson. "My focus is to have her involved in something that is intellectually stimulating. She's been coming home so excited and motivated."

While Shepperson may not be considering a career as a rocket scientist, she's learned a lot about what makes rockets soar. The rising fifth-grader is one of 50 middle school students who took part in SciMax. She says she would even be interested to return to SciMax next summer.

"It's fun and I've made a lot of friends here. You have to pay attention in class, but it's kind of easy when you have nice teachers," said Shepperson. "It's good for kids because some will just watch TV and play video games (over the summer), but this is fun and educational."

Kids aren't the only ones in

the classroom during the summer. Teachers are participating in a SciMax of their own where they are instructed on how to teach science and math.

Curt Rathburn, a WS/FCS teacher, said SciMax is designed to engage students in science and math in such a way that they won't get bored or find themselves daydreaming about sitting poolside.

"They get excited and that's what the school system is trying to do by partnering with Winston-Salem State and Wake Forest, to bring that about," said Rathburn.

Walter Johnson, a SciMax teacher, said you won't find the kids buried in books or taking notes in class during SciMax because the approach of this camp is hands-on work.

"We're preparing the students for things they're going to learn throughout the school year so they'll have a little more of an

advantage on the other children. We try to keep it away from paper and pencils. A lot of our activities are hands-on," said Johnson.


SciMax will also conduct a camp at Konnoak Elementary and a camp at Wake Forest for high school students.

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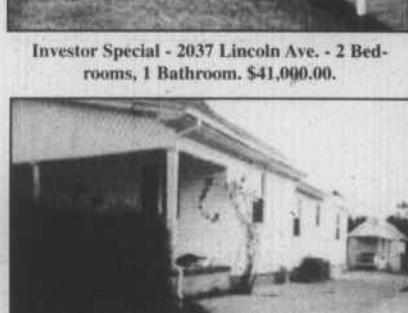
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