

# NEWS FROM MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For more information contact: Jan Phelps, (603) 668-6706 ext. 205 or e-mail [jphelps@ccsnh.edu](mailto:jphelps@ccsnh.edu)

## MCC BREAKS GROUND ON NEW AUTO TRAINING CENTER

First LEED-certified auto training center in NH

MANCHESTER – Manchester Community College broke ground Friday, Oct. 3 on Phase I of its new \$12 million Automobile Technology Training Center. The center will be the first in NH to be certified as a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design training facility.

“For over 60 years, MCC has trained more skilled auto technicians than any other college in NH,” says MCC President Darlene Miller.

“We’ve changed as the auto industry has changed,” says Automotive Technologies Dept. Chair Marc Bellerose. “After World War II, we trained returning vets; in the 1970s, we turned out technicians skilled in the new electronic systems. In the eighties, we adapted to new emissions systems. Now, as the industry faces the challenge of more advanced technologies and alternative fuels, we’re investing in this facility to provide the skilled technicians to work on those systems.”

The new facility offers a number of energy-efficient components:

- Solar heating
- A thermally efficient building envelop
- Lighting controls that will automatically adjust lights for optimal energy use;
- A water collection and re-use system
- Automatically controlled and adjusted mechanical and electrical equipment

Architect Lavallee/Brensinger has designed a building that will be constructed in phases. Phase I – whose \$3 million cost was approved by state legislators as part of the 2007 capital budget – includes approximately 19,000 square feet: two auto labs and two classrooms. The center will be open for students in September 2009.

The full building plan calls for two additional labs, 10 additional classrooms and an auto showroom where manufacturers can showcase new models. An alternative fuels program is also under design.

“This project has been in the planning stages for several years,” says Miller, “as our auto enrollment continues to grow. We’re adding the Toyota program to our lineup next fall, so we expect even higher numbers. “

“We’re not training grease monkeys anymore,” says Bellerose. “Today’s auto technician needs solid computer training, critical thinking skills, a technical background and strong literacy and math skills. Once they graduate, though, they’re on the way to a secure, lucrative career.”

-30-



# MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1066 Front Street  
Manchester, NH 03102-8518

[www.manchestercommunitycollege.edu](http://www.manchestercommunitycollege.edu)

Phone: (603) 668-6706  
Fax: (603) 668-5354