

ELK GROVE CITIZEN

**Cosumnes River College facilities expand \$13.7 million Winn Center**

November 15, 2011



Already recognized as one of the strongest academic junior colleges in California, the Cosumnes River College campus took another huge leap to reinforce that prestigious position, by breaking ground Nov. 7 for the Winn Center for architecture and construction technology.

The \$13.7 million building will house the construction, architecture, pharmacy technology and photography programs when it is completed by the fall of 2013.

The building is designed to bring construction and architecture professionals together to work and learn as a team. It will also serve as a gathering place for members of the industry to meet

and interact with each other and with students aspiring to join them in the industry. In addition to classroom space, the facility will house design studios and laboratories .

Architecture firm Lionakis, Inc. is expecting this new CRC facility to be a model in green technology, projected to earn the status of LEED –Platinum certified. It will be one of the few instructional buildings on any California community college campus that will have a rating of LEED (Leadership in Energy Environmental Design) Green Building. LEED rating system is the nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

More than 250 people gathered for the ceremony.

“For our students who look to construction, architecture, photography and pharmaceutical fields as their chosen careers, the launch and completion of this new facility will give them every resource needed to seek and gain knowledge,” said Cosumnes River College President Deborah Travis.

Funds for the 24,000-square-foot building came from local bond money and private donations, including a \$1 million gift from Michael, Peter and Tom Winn, who contributed the largest private individual gift in the history of Cosumnes River College. The Winn family has been instrumental in supporting the project from conception and supported by the Cosumnes River College Foundation.

“Many people have asked us why we did this and it is simple, it was the right thing to do,” said Michael Winn.

“Their amazing generosity to the community and education allowed us to move forward with this project,” said Travis. “We cannot thank them enough.”

Congresswoman Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, gave the keynote address. “I have no doubt the students who emerge from the Winn Center will be a different kind of professional. The programs housed in the Winn Center are focused on building relevant skills for a new workforce

in preparation for the next economy. CRC is training its students to be the best professional architects and construction managers in the industry.”

City Councilwoman Bonnie Pannell congratulated the CRC staff and the Winns for “taking a leap of faith, we thank you all.”

Chancellor Brice Harris in his remarks said the center will assist in the economy in the south area and “focus on the future growth that will certainly come in the future.”

A contest in assisting the design was by CRC students. Faculty and student comments were by John Ellis, the professor of architecture and Parisa Nejad and Ryan Connally, the professor of construction management and student Shaleen Snow.