Regents Approve New Bartow Center for Floyd

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia today approved Floyd College’s proposal for a new $17 million permanent campus in Bartow County. The proposed site of the center, which will replace the college’s two existing centers which are leased in downtown Cartersville and at North Metro Tech in Acworth, will be on 50 acres of land east of the Super Walmart in Cartersville.

“We had a strong case for this facility to move up to our number one priority,” said President Lynn Cundiff. “As we look at the overcrowding of our current centers in that area, the expected population growth, and the lack of other higher education opportunities in Bartow County, we felt that we had to move this project ahead of others on our list. In addition, we had tremendous support from Bartow County and Cartersville City leaders which helped sway the Board.”

The college had previously proposed an addition to the central campus library, as well as an aquatic center. The library addition had been placed 27th on the Regent’s capital outlay list during the summer. The Board, however, invited Dr. Cundiff to return this month to make a bid for the Bartow facility.

The new, full-service campus will incorporate approximately 150,000 gross square feet of space with 20 classrooms, four lecture halls, eight science labs, eight conference rooms, 50 faculty, staff and student offices, six administrative offices, a cafeteria/student center, and a bookstore.

Bartow County officials have agreed to donate the land to the Regents—valued at $3 million—as well as provide the necessary infrastructure for the campus.
“I'm very excited about this project,” said Bartow County Commissioner Clarence Brown. “This will be a big boost to the county. I don’t think there is anything I’d rather see brought to our community.”

[Quote from Nathan Dean]

The development of the site in Cartersville supports the college's emphasis on distance education and the advancement of technology. “We consider the consolidation as a trade of two limited and very traditional spaces for one “high tech” space.” The new space will allow for a blend of electronically-enhanced classroom delivery with web based and teleconferencing options. The college requires expanded staging areas for the development of virtual courses and distance formats, and it plans to incorporate these into the programming for the site.

Floyd College has been offering programming in Bartow County for ten years and currently has full-time faculty and staff assigned to these campuses. “We have been running out of space since we moved in to the current leased building,” said Cartersville Center Director Carolyn Parks. “We have never had enough room for classes, administration or parking.” The Cartersville center currently serves more than 500 students with only five classrooms.

In addition to academic programs conducted by Floyd College, the campus is projected to provide space for other University System partners to offer courses and continuing education opportunities. Kennesaw State University and Georgia Institute of Technology have both shown a keen interest in collaborating with Floyd College at the proposed site. Areas of interest include business, education, and engineering courses, at
the upper division and graduate levels. Other University System partners will be sought; cooperation with North Metro Technical Institute is expected to continue.