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## Terra gets started on skilled trades center

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# Terra officially starts construction on Skilled Trades Center

FREMONT -- After 40 years, Terra State Community College continues to grow.

It has grown with a record enrollment of more than 3,000 students this year along with the new skilled trades center to be constructed.

On Monday morning, city and state officials, along with Terra trustees, students and community members gathered under a white tent for the groundbreaking of the new skilled trades center.

"I do think it's a very important day for the college," Terra President Marsha Bordner said after the ceremony. "We're beginning a new chapter with enrollment being up, and construction of a building brings new life to our campus."

The new center will be approximately 23,225 square feet at a total cost of about \$3.5 million. Funding for the project is a combination of state and local funds, according to information provided by the college. Construction is expected to last one year.

The skilled trades center will house state-of-the-art labs including HVAC, welding, power technologies and truck driving. This will be the first new building on the campus since the early learning center, which opened in 1997.

Building D, which will be vacated by these labs, is to be renovated into an allied health wing and a music wing.

The general contractor is Telamon Construction in Sandusky with a base bid of \$1,574,000; Fire suppression was awarded to S.A. Communale in Fremont for \$31,970; Plumbing was awarded to Coyle Mechanical of Toledo for \$275,000; HVAC was awarded to Marlin White & Son in Fremont for \$369,500; Electrical was awarded to Woolace Electric in Stryker for \$477,000 and Roofing State Contract to Damschroder Roofing in Fremont for \$124,593.

During the ceremony, Board Chair of Terra State Community College Helene Zielinski gave a historical overview of the past 40 years, talking about the changes over the years and how the college got its start in 1968 as Sandusky-Seneca Technical Institute. In 1969, under the name of Vanguard Technical Institute, it moved to Cedar Street and then became Terra Technical College in 1973. The groundbreaking for the Napoleon Road campus was in June 1977.

Bill Russell, associate vice chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, talked about the state's strategic plan, which includes attracting and graduating students.

"We have to not only provide education, but provide opportunities," he said. "We need to make higher education more affordable and a way to do that is to have them start out at a two-year (college) then transfer."

State Treasurer Kevin Boyce talked about the struggling economy and high unemployment rates across the state.

"It's up to all of us to define what Ohio will look like," he said. "I believe it starts here in Fremont, at Terra, so our workforce can prepare and set the stage for the next generation."

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Board Chair of Terra State Community College Helene Zielinski (from left), Associate Vice Chancellor of Ohio Board of Regents Bill Russell, Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce, Terra President Marsha Bordner and Ohio State Rep. Dennis Murray (D-Sandusky) break the ground on the new skilled trades center on campus. (Leslie Bixler | News-Messenger)