



# BOND PROGRAM UPDATE



## *Fall 2006*

### **Moving forward, from signs to designs**

Two years ago, the Dallas County Community College District began an exciting journey toward the future with plans that would provide students and community members with new state-of-the-art facilities, easily accessible new education centers and more room to learn, park and participate in college activities. As the new chancellor for DCCCD, I would like to share with you where we are today on our journey that began with a successful \$450 million bond election in May 2004 – with your generous support – and continues with architectural renderings, future groundbreakings and excitement about the future for our students, faculty, staff, administrators and friends.

Our bond program includes plans on every college campus in our district for new facilities, including more classrooms, laboratories, community space and parking. Each DCCCD college has identified its most critical educational needs, and we will build new facilities with those assessments as our priorities. In addition to those on-campus buildings, the district has pledged to construct five new community education campuses across Dallas County to provide access to either underserved or fast-growing populations in our area; those locations include Garland, Pleasant Grove, south Irving, west Dallas and Coppell.

### **Changing hands**

DCCCD recently shared news with Garland-area leaders that responsibility for the development and oversight of our district’s new community education campus in Garland will be assumed by Richland College, effective immediately; that move will enable Eastfield College officials to focus on another community education center in Pleasant Grove. In our original plan, Eastfield College was responsible for planning, staffing and managing both locations in Garland and Pleasant Grove. Construction on the two facilities should begin in mid-to-late 2007.

Our priority as a district is to develop the best possible community education campuses in both Garland and Pleasant Grove. Providing excellent resources is part of the plan. In order to furnish those necessary resources, our district has re-configured responsibilities for those two important centers, ensuring that Eastfield College and Richland College can meet community needs and provide workforce education in Pleasant Grove and Garland.

As time has passed and assessments of those communities’ needs continued, we decided to shift the development and oversight of the Garland location from Eastfield College to Richland College because each institution has worked hand-in-hand for more than three decades with business leaders and local government to meet the educational needs of the Garland area. As a result, both colleges are in tune with the economic development trends and the wishes of business persons and residents in that area. I believe this arrangement will benefit both of those community education campuses, enabling us to focus on targeted education programs that fit each area.

Dr. Steve Mittelstet and Dr. Carol Brown, presidents of Richland and Eastfield colleges, respectively, will collaborate on plans for the Garland center. As a district, we also will invite our other colleges to offer courses at the center that will meet the needs of the Garland community. Our plans include focusing on educational needs for workforce development instead of a broad-based array of classes for general education programs – a change in our original plan, but one I believe will best serve the needs of Garland.

*More*



Richland College has suggested some changes in direction, tailored specifically to the Garland campus, including:

- A program that addresses Garland's workforce needs through specific corporate/contract training;
- Flexible scheduling and configuration for training needs;
- Courses offered by several DCCCD institutions at one DART-accessible location;
- A new Business Innovations Center on an environmentally friendly campus facility; and
- Offices for appropriate mission-related job opportunity/chamber/career development agency partners.

We believe that this step forward provides both education campuses with the resources they will need to serve their communities. We have pledged to offer better access to higher education for persons who live in traditionally underserved areas or in high-growth areas. I believe we remain true to that pledge and look forward to your support and your participation in these critical community education campuses.

### **Making the old look new**

In fall 2004, DCCCD took its first step in the bond program by purchasing the Paramount Building in downtown Dallas for \$10 million so that El Centro College could expand its nursing and allied health facilities. This September, more than 200 district and El Centro administrators, faculty, staff and students celebrated the beginning of remodeling efforts in the Paramount Building and literally christened a column with confetti and applause during an official "launch." Much of the building's interior will be demolished, followed by construction of state-of-the-art facilities for health education that should be completed by fall 2007. The Houston-based firm of Watkins, Hamilton and Ross Architects will oversee the renovations from their Dallas office.

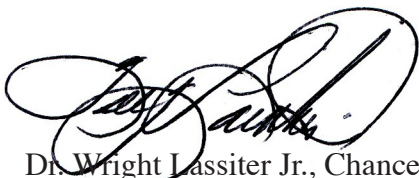
Festivities included comments by Jerry Prater, chairman of DCCCD's board of trustees; Ed DesPlas, the district's vice chancellor for business affairs (then interim president of El Centro College); and a number of administrators who oversee the college's nursing and allied health programs. Students dressed in their scrubs and lab coats, too. Jerry Prater and I used breakaway plastic champagne bottles, labeled "Chateau d'El Centro...aged to perfection for 40 years," to christen one of the building's columns with confetti. We shared a wonderful celebration.

### **Drawing tomorrow's plans**

As we plan and build for the future, an integral part of that process includes hiring architects who will turn our ideas and vision into reality. During the past year, members of the DCCCD board of trustees have approved the hiring of a number of architectural firms for bond program projects. The architects and their projects include:

HDR Architecture, Brookhaven science building; Dimensions Architects, Brookhaven automotive technology expansion; Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Cedar Valley science/allied health/veterinary technology center; Jonathon Bailey Associates, Cedar Valley industrial technology building; HKS, Eastfield general classroom facility; KAI Architects, Eastfield community education campus; PSA-Dewberry, Mountain View student center/student services building; Gensler, Mountain View science/allied health building; Perkins & Will, North Lake science/medical professions building; Jacobs Facilities, North Lake north community education campus; F&S Partners, North Lake south community education campus; Perkins & Will, Richland science building/ mechanical infrastructure parking; and VAI Architects, Richland workforce development center in Garland.

I pledge to keep you updated regularly about our bond construction program so that you can continue to share our excitement and our progress. Please contact me with your comments or questions at [wlassiter@dcccd.edu](mailto:wlassiter@dcccd.edu).



Dr. Wright Lassiter Jr., Chancellor