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Moultrie Tech to Renovate, Add Library

From left: Academic Affairs Dean Brandi Giddens reviews blueprints with Moultrie Technical College (MTC) board member Brinson Brock and MTC President Tina Anderson.

Moultrie Tech to renovate, add library

What is currently a simple break room and open study hall area on Moultrie Technical College's Turner County Campus on Rock House Road in Ashburn will soon take on a warm and welcoming atmosphere for students, faculty and staff, complete with the scent of coffee beans among stacks of books.

The current break room will be split in half to create a coffee break and vending environment and a library with a small computer lab.

"There is nowhere quiet for the students to study right now. The campus needs a library for its students," said MTC Turner County Campus Dean of Academic Affairs Brandi Giddens.

According to MTC President Tina Anderson, "We want the students to feel special. It is going to be the

smallest but the most fantastic library area among all of MTC's campuses. This will make it a full-service campus for our students."

The library will contain books specific to the programs offered on the MTC Turner County Campus, such as BAT(business administrative technology), carpentry, cosmetology, ECE (early childhood care and education,) and (IEC) industrial electrical construction. Books that will assist students in core subjects will also be available. Among the selections, students and community members will also have access to leisure reading and self-development resources.

"Our libraries are open to anyone in the community who wants to receive access to them. All they have to do is get an MTC library card," added Anderson. ▸▸

Spotlight On
CONSTRUCTION

DeKalb County makes construction progress

DeKalb County Public Library achieved significant progress in its library bond program during the past year. In June, two projects were completed and opened for service. The Northlake-Barbara Loar branch resumed service after a renovation/ expansion project that enlarged the library from 10,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet, while a new 18,000-square-foot Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Branch replaced a former 9,335-square-foot facility. In August, construction began to renovate and expand the Hairston Crossing and Salem-Panola branches.

In the coming year, DeKalb County Public Library expects to complete five additional library projects. In late January, a new Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library will open for service. The new 25,000-square-foot facility will be twice as large as the current building.

This will be followed by an expanded Embry Hill branch, which will double in size from 4,000 square feet to 8,000 square feet, and a new 25,000-square-foot Stonecrest branch. Both are expected to open during the first half of the year. The Stonecrest Library will be DeKalb County Public Library's first entirely new branch to open in nearly 20 years.

Later in the fall, the Hairston Crossing and Salem-Panola branch projects, which broke ground in August 2009, will be completed. Also in 2010, construction will begin on a 40,000-square-foot Central Library Annex and Processing Center, a new 12,000-square-foot Scott Candler branch and a 12,000-square-foot Ellenwood branch near the DeKalb/ Henry County border.

The library system expansion is the result of a bond referendum passed by DeKalb County voters in 2005. ▸▸