

## Tidewater Community College Regional Health Professions Center – A Summary



Scheduled to be open in January 2011, construction began on the Regional Health Professions Center in August 2009. This state-funded \$32 million project will expand TCC's capacity to provide highly trained health care workers in Hampton Roads. The building will be a three story structure comprising 65,000 square feet of instructional and office space. The

building will have 41 new classrooms, laboratories, and medical simulation rooms. Also included within the facility will be a two-story apartment, an ambulance simulator, several simulated hospital rooms, and high fidelity human patient simulators integrated with digital audio and video for recording and analysis.

At present the Health Profession Division, located at the Virginia Beach Campus, employs 35 full-time teaching faculty, 60 adjunct faculty, and offers more than 260 courses each fall semester for some 4,000 students pursuing 13 academic programs in the health care field. Currently the college provides programs in registered nursing, nurse aide, emergency medical services, respiratory therapy, radiography, polysomnography, occupational therapy assistant, physical therapy assistant, medical assistant, health information management, diagnostic medical sonography, critical care, and medical office administration.



Completion of the new Center will facilitate the development and offering of new health care programs such as home health aide, surgical technology, licensed practical nursing, medical lab technology, medical equipment technician, phlebotomy technician, electronic health records, and ophthalmic technician.

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### News & Video Release:

Ramping Up Health Education – TCC Breaks Ground on Regional Health Professions Center

<http://www.tcc.edu/news/press/RegionalHealthProfessionsCenterGroundbreaking.htm>

*In-demand career programs include EMS, physical therapy, nursing, radiology*

[Video: Groundbreaking Speeches](#)

Direct Link: <http://wtcc.tcc.edu:8080/ramgen/content/vbhealthgrndbrk.rm>



*Speakers included, right to left, Gov. Kaine, President DiCroce, Mayor Sessoms and TCC Board Chair Lee Armistead. Right, Dr. DiCroce and Gov. Kaine staked out a corner of the Regional Health Professions Center with a bevy of area leaders.*

NORFOLK, Va. (July 22, 2009) – Continuing to help fuel the region’s critical-needs workforce, Tidewater Community College has broken ground for a comprehensive Regional Health Professions Center (RHPC) on its Virginia Beach Campus.

On July 22, Gov. Timothy Kaine joined TCC President Deborah M. DiCroce, city officials, business, healthcare and civic leaders, and TCC community members to stake out a corner of the 65,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility.

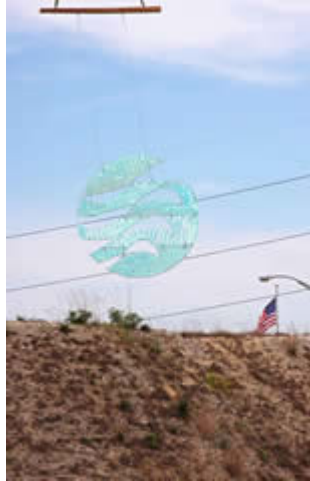
“I can’t think of a better example of what President Obama had in mind when he announced last week his unprecedented proposal to invest \$12 billion in this nation’s community colleges over the next 10 years,” said TCC President Deborah M. DiCroce, who noted that TCC trained more than 10,000 students in its 13 health profession specialties in the past two years alone.

“TCC’s Regional Health Professions Center will provide our students with the most current, the most rigorous training in education in the health profession disciplines, those that are so critical to the region’s healthcare delivery and economic growth,” added DiCroce. The Center also positions TCC to at least double its output of healthcare professionals and expand myriad partnerships.

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*President DiCroce talked about the need for the RHPC to local TV news teams.*



*TCC's logo rose as the event concluded (center).*



*Professor Gary Cross staked out a corner of the new center with TCC leaders, Gov. Kaine and city, civic and business representatives.*

In TCC's usual out-of-the-box manner, the groundbreaking featured stakeholders pounding stakes into the ground, symbolizing critical investments in health education through the new Center. Guest speakers included Gov. Timothy Kaine, Virginia Beach Mayor William D. Sessoms Jr., Virginia Beach Vision President Stephen R. Davis, TCC Board Chair Lee Armistead, TCC respiratory therapy professor Gary Cross and radiography student Patricia L. Baldwin.

The Center will support TCC's [13 health profession disciplines](#) – from critical care to health information technology to medical assistant to nurse aide to physical therapy assistant – as well as potential new programs such as mammography, ophthalmology, phlebotomy and surgical technician. TCC has over 6,000 students preparing for careers in the health professions. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the healthcare sector will generate more new jobs by 2016 than any other industry. In fact, seven of the 20 fastest-growing occupations are healthcare related.



*Over 300 people gathered to break ground for TCC's new center, including dozens of health professions students.*

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In addition to specialized classrooms, TCC's high-tech Regional Health Professions Center will offer 15 laboratories and 15 simulation areas, including a sleep lab, doctor's office, ambulance area, and sonography, nursing and respiratory therapy labs with human patient simulators.

Expected to be completed by the end of 2010, the Center was designed by architect Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering with construction by Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.

Manifesting its continuing strategic growth, in 2009 alone TCC dedicated its Joseph N. Green District Administration Building in Norfolk and its Regional Automotive Center in Chesapeake, and broke ground for the first of four student centers and for the Regional Health Professions Center.



Photos by Jerry Altares and Bradley Smith