Building toward health field careers

In the remnant of a former cornfield, Johnson County Community College and Olathe Medical Center are tilling the ground in advance of another kind of harvest – allied health medical professionals.

Groundbreaking on the two-story, 50,000-square-foot Olathe Health Education Center took place Dec. 3, and construction is scheduled to begin March 2010. The center will open for classes in fall 2011.

OMC donated 5.8 acres of land for the building and parking, located between 152nd and 153rd Streets, west of Olathe Medical Center Parkway. JCCC will build OHEC at an anticipated cost of $15 million.

The building exterior is designed using JCCC campus standard brick with options for cast stone or metal between the windows. The main entrance is to the north with parking to the northwest.

Similar in design to the Regnier Center, OHEC features a two-story atrium and floating staircase. The first floor will contain the main lobby, information desk, and a 300-seat multipurpose conference room that can be divided into four areas for smaller meetings or classes.

Additional first-floor spaces are allocated for general education, medical office technology and other medical offerings (EKG, phlebotomy, pharmacy technology, medical lab technology and surgical technology) to include:

- Three general classrooms for classes such as anatomy and physiology
- One medical computer lab and one general-use computer lab
- A medical office technology suite with two classrooms and a record office room for medical billing, coding and transcription
- One classroom for other medical offerings
- Common spaces, including a coffee bar and food cart
- Offices for faculty and staff, including security, counseling and student services

The second floor is designed primarily for practical nursing, health occupations (certified nurse assistant, certified medication aides, rehabilitation aide, home health aide and IV therapy for LPNs) and dietary manager programs to include:

- Four health occupations classrooms with three patient care beds each
- Two skills lab with eight beds each; one of the two is designed to accommodate four patient simulators
- Practical nurse/health occupations student success center
- Two classrooms for practical nursing and other medical classes
- Common spaces for study and rest breaks
- Offices for faculty and staff
Students will have clinical education opportunities at Olathe Medical Center as well as the opportunity for professional relationships with OMC health care practitioners.

Rex Hays, executive director, Campus Services, says HMN Architects collaborated with the academic administrators in multiple meetings to fulfill the specific needs of health care programming. According to Hays, the building will meet LEED silver certification in recognition of environmentally responsible building practices. Access to a detention basin for a storm water run-off adds to points for LEED criteria.

As owner of the OHEC, JCCC will provide maintenance, housekeeping and security. (The college owns the building but does not receive clear title until the end of the 10-year lease and after payment of all scheduled lease amounts.)

“We are grateful to Olathe Medical Center for the opportunity of building a health care teaching campus,” said Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president. “The medical center is a renowned medical facility be par

“With Olathe Health Education Center on our campus, president/CEO of OMC. pleasure f JCCC, and the Olathe School District outstanding health care pro the future.

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