

# Westward Expansion



JCCC's administration of justice program will move to the west side of the Police Academy.

## Campus

Officer Tom Schatzle, Olathe Police Department, and Police Academy staff instructor, critiques a situational training exercise completed by Leawood recruits Jarris Krapcha (left) and Ben Egidy.



6

**S**ix years after the Johnson County Regional Police Academy and accompanying administration of justice program offices and

classroom were dedicated in October 2001, the academy is in need of more space.

The original 12,000-square-foot building unofficially opened in August 2001, when the 65th class of the Police Academy became the first recruits to train in the new facility, and the administration of justice program began classes that fall term. The new 4,000-square-foot expansion will increase the building size by one-third, and opening is set for August 2008.

The addition to the west of the current building will be dedicated to the administration of justice program with four classrooms, three faculty offices and a conference room. Melody Rayl, co-facilitator, administration of justice program,

says the program currently has two classrooms during the day and a third one in the evening; now the program will have four dedicated classrooms and a work area for adjunct teachers.

In terms of technology, the new space will have wireless capability and outlets for laptop computers, according to Rayl.

The Police Academy will move into the former administration of justice program area.

"We need more space," said Dr. Jerry Wolfskill, director, Johnson County Regional Police Academy. "The Johnson County Sheriff's Office needs to hire 125 people during the next two years."

Johnson County Regional Police Academy is a partnership between the Johnson County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association and JCCC. The Police Academy trains full-time officers employed by more than 30 law enforcement agencies, primarily in northeastern Kansas.

At its current size, the Police Academy can train a maximum of 24 recruits per class, four classes per year. With the space acquired from the administration of justice program, the Police Academy will have the option of putting 30 recruits in each class or running five classes per year.

"The need for more law enforcement officers has grown with the population increase in the county and plans for building a new county jail," Wolfskill said. "Baby-boomers are now starting to retire so they will have to be replaced by each agency."

Recruits train at the Police Academy from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. five days a week for 16 weeks. All academy training, except live firearms and the emergency vehicle operation course and situational training, takes place at the Police Academy. 