



COPPER MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Contact:

Laura Hall, Public Information Office

(760) 366.3791 x. 5442

(760) 408.7071 cell

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CMC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$5 MILLION BELL CENTER CAMPAIGN

The Copper Mountain College Foundation announces “Living the Promise: 25 Years Later,” a \$5 million capital campaign to equip the new multi-use Bell Center and its adjacent baseball and track/soccer field. The state and a 10% local match by Leota Bell and her late husband Bill provided funding for construction of the complex, but environmental delays coupled with rising costs have resulted in a substantial shortfall of funding to meet equipment and infrastructure needs.

“We are extremely pleased that our state funding for construction of the Bell Center has not been impacted by recent economic difficulties,” says Dr. Roger Wagner, Superintendent/President of CMC. “Construction is progressing quickly, and major changes to the building can be easily viewed from Highway 62 from week to week. We are excited about the pace, but also realize that we have challenges ahead of us to secure additional funding to make sure the Bell Center meets the needs of both the college and the community.”

Construction of the Bell Center complex represents a milestone in the young college’s history as it moves forward to being regarded as a “complete campus” while also celebrating its 25th Anniversary. “Providing comprehensive physical education programs is considered a critical ability of a community college, and this important step will take us to full-service status,” continues Dr. Wagner. “In addition, the Bell Center, at 40,000 square feet, can also host musical and live performance events on a scale that is currently not possible in the Morongo Basin. We are excited about the prospects for the entire community, and we look forward to the opportunities and economic benefits that hosting exhibitions and large scale events can provide.”

The capital campaign, headed up by Foundation Board President Jane Smith, Executive Director Syndee Slayton, and Fund Development Chairperson Randy Councell, will be a three-year effort to secure the funds that were impacted by project delays and budget cuts, among those is \$500,000 in state funds for equipment that was cut in January. “We were obviously disappointed to hear of this latest cut,” says Jane Smith. “However we are thankful that our state construction funds are totally protected. We know that we have a lot of work to do, but we also understand that we need to invest in education, now more than ever, to protect the future of the Morongo Basin.”

“Much of our campaign will be centered on our website, a move we hope will allow us to provide a tremendous amount of information about the benefits of the Bell Center at a very low cost,” says Syndee Slayton. “We will be doing a little bit of everything online, from registering alumni and volunteers, to processing donations and sponsorships. We also hope that the community will take this opportunity to celebrate our 25th Anniversary by viewing our online historical documents which include the presentation

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of the Volunteer Action Award to the Foundation by President Reagan in 1984. We can all take pride in the tremendous feat this community accomplished by establishing our college without public funding. CMC is truly a unique institution, and a reflection of a community that has grit and determination.”

“Our goal of \$5 million in three years represents a solid plan which will result in a facility we will all be proud of,” adds Randy Councill. “Every effort is being made to make sure each dollar works hard for our students and our community. We are lucky to live in a place that understands the importance of education and we have faith that our residents will help us meet our goals, despite these tough economic times.”

CMC expects completion of the Bell Center gymnasium within 12 to 14 months, with the fields, which are to be funded by capital campaign funds, to be completed within 36 to 48 months. Donations can be made in a number of ways, including by pledge over several years, through planned giving, by monthly or quarterly installments, or by direct cash contributions. The CMC Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3), and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information about the Bell Center capital campaign or ways to donate, contact the Foundation at 760-366-3791 ext. 4200, or visit the website at www.theCMCF.org.