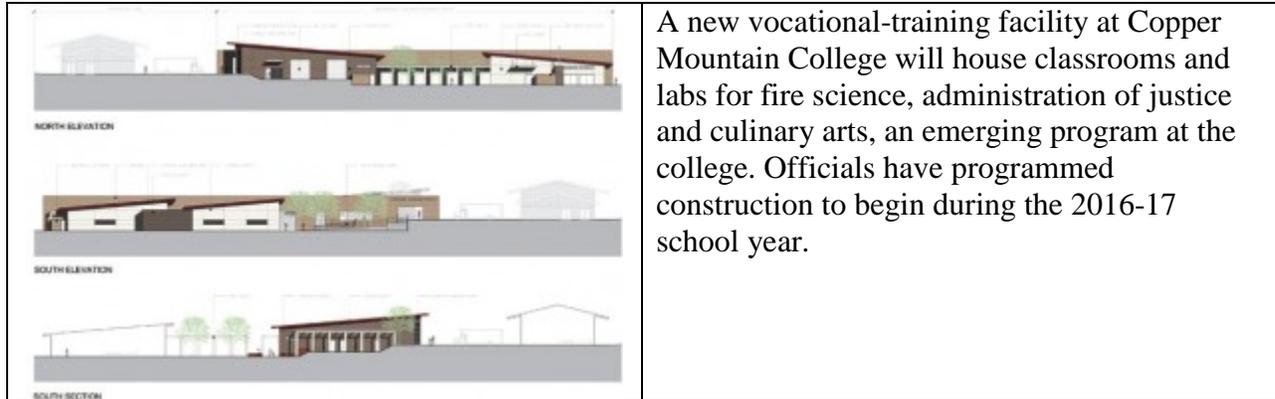




College plans for career-training center

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By: Jimmy Biggerstaff, Hi-Desert Star



A new vocational-training facility at Copper Mountain College will house classrooms and labs for fire science, administration of justice and culinary arts, an emerging program at the college. Officials have programmed construction to begin during the 2016-17 school year.

JOSHUA TREE — Copper Mountain College continues to expand. The latest addition will be a \$12 million vocational facility for culinary arts, administration of justice and fire science.

Roger Wagner, CMC president, told trustees at a special board meeting Thursday the 16,000-square-foot, quad-style addition will go in between the auto shop and Bell Center multi-use sports complex.

Wagner said the new construction will not bring on more faculty or staff members, but rather existing programs will move into the new classrooms. Faculty members had input into the design, including a full kitchen for culinary arts, an emerging program at the college.

“It’s a well-thought-out and well-laid-out plan,” the president told board members.

Wagner cautioned that the project is contingent on state bonding capacity.

“I have a positive feeling about what’s going to happen to our economy in the next two years,” Wagner said.

“We have to look to the future,” trustees Eva Kinsman and Rita Ramirez-Dean agreed as President Dick Rogers called for the question.

The board approved the final project proposal 4-0 with trustee Liz Meyer absent.

Trustee Owen Gillick, a supporter of CMC since before the school was built, conveyed his characteristic enthusiasm for the new construction.

In a telephone interview Friday afternoon, Gillick said the vocational center fills a need.

“We’ve been doing things step by step since we got started,” Gillick said, adding he agrees with the optimistic economic outlook that just because things are bad now, they won’t always be bad. Gillick said the college needs to, “Be prepared for recovery and have plans in place to participate in the recovery and enhance it.

“It’s a very slow process to get a set of buildings,” Gillick continued. “Sometimes it is a leap of faith.”

The trustee said he is impressed by the staff’s identification of the ongoing costs for the expanding campus.

“We’re not only planning for the construction of the building,” Gillick said, “but also planning on how to operate and maintain it.”

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