

## CAMPUS OPENING SEPTEMBER 2013

### Completion of WGTC buildings will usher in new era in education

By REBECCA LEFTWICH

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Construction on two buildings whose completion will usher in a new era in Coweta County education is right on schedule.

West Georgia Technical College's stand-alone Coweta Campus south of Newnan will open on Sept. 20, 2013.

The 38-acre Coweta campus – on Turkey Creek Road near the I-85 Moreland interchange – initially will be home to a 36,000-square-foot, state-funded building and the 47,000-plus square-foot Newnan Hospital Allied Health Care Building. Core, business/public service and health service classes are expected to make up the bulk of course offerings when the Coweta campus first opens.

'The ribbon cutting in fall 2013 will be the culmination of a process that has been the long-time dream of many,' said Dawn Cook, WGTC's vice president of institutional advancement. 'We can't wait to open Coweta County's campus.'

Local investment group Orchard Hills Golf Properties LLC's donation in 2009 of the Turkey Creek land tract - appraised at more than \$1.5 million - was an outgrowth

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Photo courtesy of Lee Kluger, Aerial Photography of Atlanta

West Georgia Technical College's Coweta Campus – set to open Sept. 20, 2013 – initially will be home to a 36,000-square-foot, state-funded building, on the right, and the 47,000-plus square-foot Newnan Hospital Allied Health Care Building, left.

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of local support for a standalone Coweta campus to match the county's growing need for a skilled labor workforce.

WGTC has offered classes at the Coweta County School System's Central Educational Center charter school since 2000, but demand for technical education has grown exponentially as skilled job openings have begun to outnumber qualified workers.

The college has said its CEC operations will remain in place, offering core classes and adult education as well as courses in dental assisting, automotive, welding, cosmetology, patient care, culinary arts and commercial truck driving. The new Coweta campus will allow WGTC's educational opportunities to expand and allow more coursework to meet the workforce needs of local business and industry.

Coweta's new campus is not only designed to provide students with state-of-the-art classrooms and labs, but also to facilitate student interaction.

A pedestrian walkway – not open to vehicles – will join the two buildings, creating a common area that will provide students a place to mingle and share their ideas and experiences.

Athletics, honor societies and school leadership opportunities give WGTC students several ways to get involved on each of the college's campuses. Coweta students attending WGTC classes at the Central Educational Center campus in Newnan already hold prestigious positions and have won national awards in Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda, and the Student Leadership Council gives students the opportunity to determine how to utilize funds set aside specifically for student activities.

With that in place, it made sense to design a campus that encourages students to become part of a true college experience, according to Cook.

'There will be a little something for everybody,' she said. 'It's a project we've wanted to bring to Coweta County for a long time, and next fall it will become reality.'

In other WGTC news, the West Georgia Technical College Foundation recently presented the Hope for the Journey Foundation, the West Georgia Health Foundation and the Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Newnan each with a \$1,000 check.

Also, the technical college, based in Carrollton, has set a press conference for 5 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Murphy Conference Center on the West Georgia Tech campus in Waco regarding the WGTC Golden Knights athletics, said Aaron Sones, sports information coordinator.