NEW COMMUNITY EDUCATION BUILDING CELEBRATED

Fresh baked goods prepared by culinary students in the college’s new commercial teaching kitchen topped off an afternoon of celebration Nov. 2 as Allan Hancock College officially opened its new Community Education Building.

“These cookies are delicious and this kitchen is just amazing,” said Peggy Greer, who attended the event and took advantage of the self-guided tours through the facility’s classrooms and labs.

The building, which has been open to students since August, incorporates Allan Hancock College’s community education program, including English as a Second language classrooms and labs, basic skills classrooms and computer labs, and two fine arts classrooms.

The 18,482 square foot structure also houses the college’s noncredit matriculation and counseling services. It was built at a cost of about $6.7 million.

College Superintendent/President, José Ortiz, welcomed the crowd of more than 100, and thanked local voters for supporting it and future capital projects planned for the campus. He said Measure I, a $180 million general obligation bond passed by voters in June 2006, helped complete the construction and provided furnishings for the Community Education building. It will also allow the college to build other new facilities.

“We are deep into the planning for a One Stop Student Center for this campus as well as a new public safety training facility,” among other projects. He said the bond funding is working to help transform the campus.

One of the day’s speakers, Sergio Hay, representing the Associated Student Body Government, echoed Ortiz’s sentiments about the impact of new facilities on campus.

“This magnificent …building…provides the students with a warm, hospitable feeling which we appreciate greatly,” he said. “This is only the beginning. We would like to express our appreciation to all the hard-working, dedicated staff, faculty, administrators, students and community members who helped make this vision a reality.”

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