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### **Conversion on Campus**

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## **LCC has undergone a major facelift in the past two years**

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Summer term is usually a quiet time on the Lane Community College campus. But not this year.

Workers swarmed the campus as soon as spring term ended, rushing to complete millions of dollars worth of construction and renovation work in time for the start of classes three weeks ago. With only a few exceptions, they succeeded.

Fueled by an \$83.5 million construction bond measure approved by voters in 2008 and another \$8 million in state stimulus money last year, the campus on East 30th Avenue has been part construction site and part college for the past two years. In the past 23 months, LCC has completed projects that have pumped \$56.7 million into the state's economy.

"We've been busy," said Dennis Carr, LCC's human resources director and one of its construction coordinators.

That includes the Health and Wellness Center, a \$15 million project funded by \$6.75 million in state bonds and the rest from donations and grants. The 42,000-square-foot building opened last month with much fanfare, but it's only one of many projects that are gradually remaking the LCC campus.

The college promoted the bond measure as a way to preserve the investment taxpayers already have made in the campus by focusing on improving and extending the life of existing buildings rather than replacing them. No local bond money went to the new health building; about the only new construction funded by the bond is \$9 million — half of which has been committed in the past year — for a new downtown campus building.

Carr said the effect of the new taxpayer investment already is apparent.

"The learning environment and work environment in so many of the buildings on campus have been completely transformed," Carr said. "From a campus that was 40 years old using older technology and poorly configured spaces that were difficult to both teach and learn in, to absolutely state-of-the-art smart classrooms, the best technology, safe lighting and safe and healthy and welcoming facilities for both the students and the instructors. It's remarkable what this investment has resulted in."

Five existing buildings on campus received major remodeling or expansion over the past year, and other projects have replaced old and outdated infrastructure and improved utilities, lighting, security and communications. So far, the college has spent \$31.1 million of the bond money and has started planning the next round of improvements.

So far, the college has added about a half-dozen new classrooms and increased the capacity of several others. All of those spaces now have the latest teaching technology, turning them into “smart” classrooms with state-of-the-art audio-visual and computer gear.

Several buildings have new heating and cooling systems, replacing what at best were highly inefficient and at worst unhealthful equipment with modern, energy- efficient systems. And the campus’ technology backbone — the system of servers and infrastructure that powers its computer system — has been relocated and upgraded.

Improvements have been made indoors and out. An upgrade of athletics and physical education facilities is just wrapping up, providing a new, all-weather track surface with a new synthetic infield along with a new, synthetic surface, full-size soccer field.

Projects to be started next year could include an upgrade of the central physical plant and creation of a “learning commons” in the Center building.

A campus committee has begun meeting to determine which projects to tackle.

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## **LCC REBUILDS**

Projects completed in the past year under the college’s \$83.5 million bond levy:

Buildings 4 & 5: \$8.8 million. Bid as a single project, the work completely renovated Building 4 (health) and renovated and added a dance studio to Building 5 (physical education).

Infrastructure: \$5.5 million. Projects include repair and improvements to utilities, concrete, communications, security and technology.

Downtown campus: \$4.5 million has been committed to the new building.

Track and soccer fields: \$4.4 million. Work includes a new track surface, synthetic infield and synthetic soccer field.

Building 2: \$3.4 million. Remodeled to house technology infrastructure, video conferencing and online instruction, upgraded classrooms and offices.

Buildings 10 & 11: \$1.67 million. Interior demolition, asbestos removal and design for future remodel.

Energy projects: \$650,000 for a solar power station that also can recharge electric cars, a multi-building solar-thermal system and laundry heat recovery.

Building 19: \$553,000 to remodel offices and work space for business and computer technology programs.

Building 6: \$439,000 to add an elevator and renovate conference rooms and offices to meet accessibility requirements in the performing arts building.

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