

For Immediate Release

ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND MAKING CAMPUS UPGRADES

CUMBERLAND, Md. – Allegany College of Maryland is making major strides toward updating its facilities to strengthen its services to students, improve the appearance of its campus and conserve resources through energy savings.

Already complete is a distribution system that will enable the college to convert oil-fired boilers to burn more economical natural gas.

Columbia Gas of Maryland made this natural gas service possible by hiring a utility contractor who worked for several weeks to install underground pipes throughout campus.

In exchange for bearing the cost of this work, the gas company gains ACM as a customer, which will enable the community college to realize substantial savings in coming years.

The first big move from heating oil to natural gas has already been made. The Allied Health Building, a two-story structure housing classrooms, labs and clinics for ACM's many allied health care programs, is now online.

The Physical Education Building, one of two campus buildings heated and cooled with a geo-thermal heat-pump system, also is connected. The swimming pool's water heater is now powered by natural gas.

Conversions are planned for the College Center, an expansive building that houses administrative offices and support services as well food service facilities and a theater, and the Science Building, which features numerous laboratories in addition to classrooms.

Proposals have been sought from vendors to convert boilers in these buildings to the new fuel source and to link them with the new service.

ACM estimates that as these and future conversions are made to the lower cost heating source that it will save \$2.5 million in energy costs over the next several years.

The college is now moving to renovate the Technologies Building, which houses information technology and telecommunications as well as technologies-based academic programs, such as computer science, forestry and multimedia.

Added to the campus in 1975, the Technologies Building is in line for major overhaul. County and state funding, the latter at nearly 70 percent of the total, has been secured to proceed with the first phase of the project as designed by a Baltimore architectural firm.

The college expects to advertise for construction bids early this summer so that work can begin in early fall on the first of the project's two phases.

Near-term renovations will include a new lobby and atrium for the T-shaped structure, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, roof and windows replacement and a new heating and cooling system that likewise will see a switch to natural gas from heating oil.

The second phase of renovation, which will address the Tech Building's interior space, will be handled starting in fiscal year 2019.

Visitors to campus will soon notice another coming improvement, that of the central plaza or quadrangle bordered by the College Center, Library and Humanities Building.

The two reflecting pools and fountains, which have been a feature of the campus since it opened in 1969, are inoperable and beyond repair, as is the surrounding flagstone courtyard.

To economize, the college is doing away with the water features in favor of a central plaza. This new quad will feature seating areas to promote more interaction among students and others as well as additional landscaping for enhanced aesthetics.

Demolition of the pools is underway while classes are suspended for spring break and trees and shrubs in the current landscaping design are being removed for transplanting elsewhere on campus.

The space where the reflecting pools once stood will be backfilled and compacted in the coming year with temporary improvements made as the ground settles.

In the meantime, the college community is being enlisted to determine a design for the plaza that will best serve its purpose, which includes congregation space for college events as well as small-group seating.

ACM has collaborated with county government to remove the impervious surfaces through extension of a Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund project that also restored approximately 800 linear feet of Evitts Creek adjacent to campus.

The college will later restore the plaza with new landscaping and hardscape, some of which will be repurposed in the future plan.

-30-

PHOTO CAPTION==Allegany College of Maryland's Technologies Building will be renovated in a major project to start this fall. The first phase of construction includes a striking new lobby and atrium at the center of the T-shaped structure. Replacement of windows and roofs also is included as are Americans with Disabilities Act compliance features and a new heating and cooling system powered by natural gas. The college has

engaged the Baltimore architectural firm of Murphy and Dittenhafer to assist it in the renovation, which will be completed in coming fiscal years after the second phase of construction is realized.



ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND  
12401 WILLOWBROOK RD, CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

