Beaufort County Community College is currently eligible for over $5 million dollars in matching construction funds from the State and may receive a portion of these funds if voters pass the proposed State bond referendum in November. If it passes, BCCC will receive $2.9 million to build a much-needed student services and science classroom building.

Dr. Ron Champion, BCCC president, says these funds would satisfy two major problems the college has been facing for the past few years. “One is inappropriate office space for our student services personnel. That department handles confidential issues, such as counseling and financial aid, and it is important to maintain students’ privacy in these matters. We currently just don’t have the physical space to adequately accommodate this privacy.”

A second issue that funding from the bond referendum would address is inadequate laboratory space for BCCC’s allied health and science programs. Dr. Champion says, “with the increasing demands on lab space by our nursing and medical lab technology, and general education science programs, the three small labs we have are incapable of meeting the needs. In addition, with the expected influx of tech-prep students from the local high schools, increased demands will be made on all our science classrooms and labs.” The new building would house biology, chemistry, physics and medical labs.

Dr. Champion says this building would satisfy BCCC’s space needs for some time. He sees the proposed bond referendum as “an opportunity at last to receive what the State owes the college in matching funds. If we receive these funds, the residents of our service area will benefit greatly.”