New Allied Health Building planned

Planning is underway for a new Allied Health Building that, when completed, will double the space available for the nursing and Medical Laboratory Technology programs at Beaufort County Community College and help free-up needed space for the college’s popular Arts and Sciences Division.

It is scheduled for completion in late 2011, according to Phillip Price, BCCC dean of Administrative Services.

When completed, the building will house the Associate Degree Nursing, Practical Nursing, Nurse Aide and Medical Laboratory Technology programs. Building 3, which currently houses two of the college’s nursing programs, will be used by the Arts and Sciences Division, Price said.

Construction costs of about $6.8 million are expected to be paid through grants and loans taken by Beaufort County. BCCC is seeking funds from other agencies to help pay for equipment to be used by the Allied Health programs in the new building.

The Beaufort County Board of Commissioners recently approved a $576,984 contract with JKJF Architecture of Greenville to design the building.

Included in the new building will be five nursing laboratories, one nurse aide laboratory, one medical science laboratory, a 100-seat lecture hall, five classrooms, one computer laboratory and about 20 faculty offices, according to project plans.

"The new building will bring people in Allied Health programs on campus together for the first time in one building," Price said. "That should not only benefit the students in these programs but also the faculty and staff."

To be located on the east end of campus in open space currently used for overflow parking, the new Allied Health Building will be about 30,600 square feet. Allied Health programs are currently housed in 17,199 square feet of space in three buildings.

With the opening of the new building, BCCC will gradually increase the number of nursing students. BCCC anticipates an initial expansion of 20 students in the Associate Degree Nursing program and 10 in the Practical Nursing program within the first three to five years, he said.

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 3