Events mark opening of new building

Pioneer nurse educator Katie Paul loved the nursing profession and saw it as a way for her students with an interest in health care - at that time mostly young women - to earn a good living to support themselves and their families.

“She loved being a nurse and training others to become nurses,” said I.B. Paul, Katie Paul's son. "And she never stopped loving the nursing profession."

She also had a fierce loyalty to the many students under her tutelage over the years - first at Tayloe Hospital and, ultimately, in her post as the first Director of Nursing at then-Beaufort County Technical Institute, according to her son.

“She thought of those students as ‘her girls’ and nobody messed with them,” said I.B. Paul.

Last month, I.B. Paul, dozens of Katie Paul's “girls” and state, local and county officials visited the Beaufort County Community College campus for the grand opening of the new allied health and nursing building at BCCC. An open house and lunch for BCCC allied health alumni kicked off a day-long series of events that included a presentation by allied health faculty on the future of health education, a ribbon cutting and reception for community leaders.

The 30,600 square-foot building - located on the eastern end of the BCCC campus - houses all of the college's health sciences programs including the Associate Degree and Practical Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology and Certified Nurse Aide I and II programs. Previously, the programs were housed in three separate buildings.

The new building includes three nursing laboratories, one nurse aide laboratory, one medical science laboratory, a 100-seat lecture hall, five classrooms, one computer laboratory and some 20 faculty offices.

It incorporates several innovations aimed at improving energy efficiency and was built to state energy efficiency standards of a 20 percent improvement over standard design.

And it will be equipped with the latest in audio-visual and lab equipment and mechanized simulation mannequins used to teach nursing and medical laboratory students.

“I think she would be so pleased to see the advances in nursing education,” I.B.