



Now open
Northcentral Technical College president Lori Weyers praised the partnerships that made the new western campus possible.

Campus is open for business

by News Editor Brian Wilson

The technical college system is all about building networks of partners in the public and private sectors.

As Lori Weyers, president of Northcentral Technical College, said those partnerships were what made the construction of the new NTC campus in Medford a possibility.

"It has been a long journey but we have made it," she said to a crowd of about 50 local elected officials and business leaders who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday morning.

"It wasn't always easy, but everyone worked together for a common goal and for keeping this campus in Medford," said alderman Mike Bub speaking on behalf of the Medford City

Council. Mayor Mike Wellner was out of town and unable to attend the ribbon cutting.

"Why is this important to the community? We will be able to train better employees for business and industry. It provides an affordable education for those who want to attend. By remaining in Taylor County and Central Wisconsin it will improve economic development opportunities," Bub said. "I would say welcome to Medford, but instead I will say thank you for staying in Medford."

"We always wanted to stay in Medford," said NTC board chairman Paul C. Proulx of Merrill. He praised the work done and the partnerships created to make that goal a reality.

Weyers went on to praise Sue Emmerich of the Medford Area Development Foundation

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The largest room in the campus seats up to 60 people at desks and can be divided into separate rooms.

Classrooms are sized to fit specific needs ranging from large spaces seating more than 20 to compact rooms holding a half dozen.

The dual screens on these computer workstations allow the students to interact with online classes in computer related courses.

Technology has allowed for a truly interactive audio and visual experience for the students along with the ability of classes to originate from Medford for the whole system.

These eyes in the ceiling are optical scanners located in each of the classrooms. Items placed on the desk below the scanner can be viewed by teachers or shared over the televisions.

The new building includes office space for the instructors to prepare for their classes and meet with students.

A spacious student lounge offers plenty of space for students to visit and study in comfortable booths or individually on chairs with built-in computer desks.

A four-bed nursing classroom gives the opportunity for real world training. The new campus will allow students in the nursing programs to get much of their coursework done in Medford.

A bank of windows looks in on individual testing stations from the lobby. This allows the staff to easily proctor exams. The bank of televisions automatically show what is happening in each of the rooms in the building.

A science lab offers flexibility for students at the campus to take part in hands on lab classes.

A large conference room offers opportunities for medical classes as well as potential for industry use.

★ NTC unveils new campus

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for her ongoing efforts to support the business community. Weyers recalled driving around Medford with Emmerich looking for possible locations for the new campus and how much they liked the industrial park location. According to Weyers, they already have workers from Marathon Cheese, located across the road from the campus, coming over to attend classes.

Weyers also praised the partnership with Memorial Health Center and Aspirus for support of the medical and nursing programs which are a major focus of the new campus.

"Medford is the third largest satellite campus," Weyers said, noting there were more than 70 certificate and degree programs offered entirely at the western campus versus only a handful a few years ago.

Weyers gave special mention to the college's partnership with Ghidorzi Companies of Wausau. Ghidorzi led the project through the site development plans, design process and completed construction under an aggressive time line.

The partnership continues as NTC has a lease-to-purchase agreement on the campus building from Ghidorzi.

"This is a state of the art building," Weyers said, noting that it has the newest and best technology of all the campuses at this point. "We wanted to do it right," she said.

While the footprint of the building is compact, the focus of the project has been to maximize the available space within the structure without giving the appearance of being cramped. To this end the designers and builders at Ghidorzi were able to meet the goals and maximize the available space while creating a finished product that will serve as a showcase for the contractor and the college.

"The technology in here is amazing," Chris Ghidorzi said following the ribbon cutting ceremony. In addition to classrooms and labs, the campus includes cutting edge computer labs and also the ability to originate classes from Medford for the entire system.

— Reporter Mark Berglund contributed to this story



Ribbon cutting

Alderman Mike Bub did the honors cutting the ribbon to officially open the new NTC campus in Medford. He was joined by NTC president Lori Weyers, NTC trustees and local leaders in business and economic development.

