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TCC President
Deborah
DiCroce



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Above is a simulation room in the science building of the new Portsmouth branch of Tidewater Community College. The \$65 million campus, set to open in January, boasts state-of-the-art equipment to rival that at some four-year schools.

New TCC campus aims to bring the real world into the classroom

By Denise Watson Batts
The Virginian-Pilot

PORTSMOUTH

Business classes at the new Portsmouth Tidewater Community College campus will have what is expected in an office building: cubi-

cles, a conference room and the requisite kitchen nook.

“A business can’t have a business without that,” said campus provost Terry Jones.

But the business classrooms will have plenty of extras, including elec-

tronic stock market tickers along the walls. Jones and TCC President Deborah DiCroce pointed out those and other amenities Monday during a tour of the campus, which will open to students in January.

Rooms are still bare

in some spots, but DiCroce and Jones coursed through three of the campus’s four buildings that not only will be state-of-the-art but will rival some at four-year universities,

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Above is the learning resources center at Tidewater Community College in Portsmouth. The school will replace the founding campus in Suffolk.

by the numbers

- A look at Tidewater Community College's Fred W. Beazley Portsmouth campus:
- It will serve more than 10,000 students annually after classes open Jan. 11 and eventually will have the capacity for 16,500.
 - It has 183,000 square feet, with a build-out capacity of 350,000 square feet. Initially, the campus has four, two-story buildings that provide:
 - = 1,000 computers
 - = 25 classrooms
 - = 11 instructional computer labs
 - = 20 instructional labs for disciplines such as biology, chemistry, anatomy, welding and air conditioning
 - = Four high-tech nursing classrooms with adjoining simulating hospital wards, for a simultaneous teaching capacity of 28 beds

TCC PORTSMOUTH

NURSING PROGRAM SET TO EXPAND

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DiCroce said. The \$65 million campus also will be a model for community colleges across the country in how to use design to respond to business demands.

The Beazley School of Nursing, for example, will double its capacity for students and will have human-patient simulators so cutting-edge that Eastern Virginia Medical School wants to partner to use the technology. There will be no student desks in these buildings - only tables with cushy seats, in and outside of classrooms, to promote students working together.

"This is where form meets function," DiCroce said. "There is very solid research behind everything on this campus - how we learn, how we live today, how we use technology."

The site, just south of Interstate 264 off Victory Boulevard, replaces the founding campus in Suffolk, which opened in 1968. Despite the location, it was called

the Portsmouth campus because of its funding from the Beazley Foundation in Portsmouth. The foundation then donated \$1 million and 750 acres to start a school for the convenience of Portsmouth residents, Jones said.

All programs from the old site, except trucking, will be moved to the new buildings. The Beazley Foundation contributed another \$1.4 million, and both the nursing school and the campus will carry the Fred W. Beazley name.

TCC also received \$4.7 million from Portsmouth Public Schools to expand the First College Program that allows high school students to take college courses. DiCroce said the campus will be a model for how colleges should work with surrounding communities. The city donated the 35 acres for the site.

"This is the model of the power of partnerships," DiCroce said.

Denise Watson Batts, (757) 446-2504, denise.batts@pilotonline.com



Terry Jones, the school's provost, shows off some of the science classrooms and labs at the campus Monday. The school will move all its programs, except trucking, to the Portsmouth campus from the old site in Suffolk.