GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATES LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM BUILDING

FARMINGTON—Tunxis, joined by Governor M. Jodi Rell, state officials, and others from the Connecticut Community College system, celebrated the start of the first of two phases of campus expansion at a groundbreaking ceremony on May 15, 2006. The project, which is under way, includes 95,000 square feet of new space consisting of a new 30,000 square foot library and a 65,000 square foot classroom building.

“We are proud and excited to be celebrating the beginning of our beautiful new library and state-of-the-art classroom building—92,000 square feet of usable space for us to use,” said President Addy. “Just as we are in the process of transforming our College educationally by all the curriculum work that has been done by our hardworking faculty over the years, this project will transform the campus as well.”

“Let me be clear about this—higher education…truly matters because it impacts our quality of life and that’s why our investment today in Tunxis and all of the other state college’s campuses is very important,” Gov. M. Jodi Rell said in her remarks. “Community colleges are the heart and center of our state’s higher education program,” she added, more than doubling career opportunities for students across Connecticut.

“With a variety of degree programs, community colleges are literally the right choice for thousands of students,” she continued, adding that many of these programs support Connecticut’s workforce, which is vital to economic growth. “This multi-million dollar project is a strong economic boost for the Farmington Valley,” said Rell.

“There are so many people out there who want to learn— they want to be successful,” she said. “Community colleges are all about giving those opportunities and at the end of the day, it’s not about bricks and mortar, it’s about people, and that’s what today is about. It’s about the quality of our faculty, quality of the programs that are offered, and the quality of the students,” Rell continued. “Ultimately we are investing in our children and grandchildrens’ future … and we’re not going to stop any time soon…” In concluding remarks she said, “The most important thing for me is fulfilling dreams, and that’s what we offer and what this expansion will offer.”

Completion of the $34.4 million construction project is expected in fall 2007.

L to R with Gov. M. Jodi Rell are: Commissioner James T. Fleming, CT Department of Public Works; Rep. Bill Hamzy, R-Plymouth; Rep. Kevin Witkos, R-Canton; Dr. Louise S. Berry, chair, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges; President Cathryn Addy, Ph.D.; Marc Herzog, chancellor of the Connecticut Community College system; Sen. Donald DeFranzo, D- New Britain; and Craig Saunders, architect, DuBose Associates, Inc., of Hartford. Due to inclement weather, the celebration was held inside.