



**Office of Marketing and Public Information**  
Bob Burchette, 336-334-4822, Ext. 2566  
Coretta Montague 336-334-4822, Ext. 2487

**Guilford Technical Community College**  
Jamestown, N. C. 27282

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Contact Bob Burchette  
[roburchette@gtcc.edu](mailto:roburchette@gtcc.edu)

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## **GTCC'S HIGH POINT CAMPUS GROWTH MODE CONTINUES**

HIGH POINT – A groundbreaking ceremony Thursday (August 28) marked the continued growth of the High Point campus of Guilford Technical Community College where construction of a fifth building will begin in coming weeks.

Guilford County and High Point leaders were among about 125 people who showed up for the traditional shoveling of dirt despite overcast skies and the threat of rain. The ceremony was held in a conference room before college president Dr. Don Cameron announced that the ceremony would end with college, county and city leaders “turning the dirt” piled in the parking lot along South Main Street.

Now J.S. Clark Co. of Mount Airy can officially move ahead with construction of the three-story building that will provide 20 classrooms at a cost of \$6,234,800. The total project, including design fees, parking spaces, landscaping and equipping building, will cost about \$8 million.

The project is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2009.

High Point Mayor Rebecca Smothers said the event was “an exciting day,” and noted that GTCC is important part of the city’s revitalization. She thanked Cameron and other college leaders for what has been accomplished on the campus.

The school was started 50 years ago in High Point, and also has campuses in Jamestown and Greensboro.

Guilford County Commissioners chairman Kirk Perkins said, “GTCC is our best value when it comes to spending money. It is amazing what the college does for our economy. I think this is the best community college system in the country.”

Perkins said the addition to the High Point campus is “just another notch in your belt.”

Dean of the High Point campus, Janette McNeill, said, “We can do it all here” with the completion of the building. “This (building) is huge for High Point.” She explained that students can start and finish a two-year curriculum degree in High Point instead of having to go to other campuses for some courses. The new building will increase seating capacity for students from 11, 650 to 2,150, she said.

The school serves 5, 000 to 6,000 students annually and continues to grow, McNeill said.

The college is designed to meet the needs of a variety of students, regardless of their educational needs, she said. “GTCC meets you where you are.”

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