

## **NEWS INFORMATION FROM**

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## **HACC MIDTOWN CENTER DEDICATED**

Up to 2,500 Students Expected at New Midtown Learning Center

**Harrisburg, PA** - Mayor Stephen R. Reed today formally dedicated the new HACC Midtown Center at N. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Reily Streets, culminating two years of work by HACC-Central Pennsylvania's Community College, and private developer Powers & Associates to restore the historic former Evangelical Press Building. As many as 2,500 students are expected to be educated at the new technology and trades program learning center.

Joining the Mayor at today's festivities were HACC President Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D. and Board of Trustee Vice-Chairman Mark Whitmoyer, Powers & Associates Chief Executive Officer Douglas Neidich, and a host of other midstate educators and civic leaders. The HACC Board of Trustees, who were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition, also participated in the dedication ceremonies after having held their monthly board meeting at the new facility earlier in the day.

Reed said today's ceremonies celebrate the completion of one of the more arduous revitalization efforts undertaken in recent times in the city. Vacant and virtually abandoned after state testing laboratories moved from the facility to newly-built suburban quarters, Powers & Associates and HACC worked diligently to obtain the building and restore it to productive use as an urban educational center.

HACC's long-standing trades education programs, including carpentry, home-building, HVAC, industrial maintenance and many other technology-oriented and skilled crafts classes have now been fully relocated from their nearby Community Center for Technology and the Arts(CCTA) at N. 4<sup>th</sup> and Harris Streets into the new 130,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art learning center. HACC's CCTA will now undergo a similar rehabilitation and upgrade effort with Powers and Associates also overseeing the work.

"Today is one of the most significant days in the history of Midtown," said Mayor Reed. "The opening of this magnificent new advanced learning center ensures even further growth and economic benefit to the midtown area for decades to come. With the full realization of the Midtown Master Plan, for which this new learning center serves as the anchor, an entire neighborhood is poised to become one of the most vibrant and attractive areas in all of the midstate.

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“Thousands of students are going to be attending this beautiful new facility, learning the trades and skills they need to advance themselves in the workplace. Hundreds of skilled craftspersons will be graduating from this facility, filling the many good-paying and stable jobs that today go wanting for qualified applicants. This project can quite literally raise the quality of life for thousands of Central Pennsylvanians for generations to come.”

Reed lauded the efforts of the developer and HACC officials, along with state Senator Jeffrey Piccola, state Representative Ron Buxton, and the Dauphin County Commissioners, whose support and efforts on behalf of the project helped make a dream become reality.

“These individuals saw a vision of what could be, and worked tirelessly to translate it into reality,” noted the Mayor. “Today we are witness to history as that vision becomes fully manifest.”

The Mayor said Powers & Associates began the rehab effort in April, 2006, and concluded the more than \$17 million project days ahead of schedule earlier this month. Classes for hundreds of students began August 20 at the site, which now houses 17 new classrooms along with specialized trade and computer labs, faculty and support services offices, a branch library and learning support center, and cafeteria facilities.

Dr. Edna V. Baehre, Ph.D., President of HACC, said “Central Pennsylvania’s Community College is thrilled to occupy the new learning center and our students have been raving about it. The value of this campus is limitless in providing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education and training for college students, and it will also serve as a substantial resource for the Harrisburg School District’s Career and Technology Academy, as well as HACC’s 22 sponsoring school districts.”

Reed and Dr. Baehre said the next phase of the overall project will begin soon, with the renovation of the CCTA building and the construction of additional temporary surface parking lots for students. Unoccupied or deteriorated structures adjacent to the two buildings will also be targeted for improvement or demolition, and an “urban meadow” or commons area will be established between the two primary learning centers to serve as a living ecological laboratory for teaching and hands-on student interaction, and to provide a safe pedestrian passage area between the two buildings and parking facilities. One block of Boyd Street will be vacated by the city to create the new pedestrian spine.

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The Mayor said that in a related project, the city will soon issue a Request for Proposals to construct up to 350 student housing units on parcels close to the expanded HACC Midtown Campus area. The units will be available to students attending any institution of higher learning and will not be for the exclusive use of HACC students.

“The considerably enlarged college presence, with related student housing, combined with the more than doubling of the size of the MarketPlace Townhomes development, and the continued expansion of the new Capitol Heights neighborhood and other nearby residential work all create a critical mass for Midtown to see additional businesses, restaurants and arts-related facilities. Midtown is definitely poised for a major economic boost,” said Reed.

The Mayor and attending dignitaries also unveiled a dramatic portrait of the new Midtown Center that was commissioned by Powers & Associates earlier this year. The traditional oil technique painting was created by noted national landscape artist David Bottini, of Harrisburg. Bottini is a certified “Master Teacher” in art and formerly served on the National Gallery of Art’s Teacher Advisory Board. His innovative “sharp-focused romanticism” style work is in private collections throughout the nation. He signs all of his work “Gabriel”, a perpetual homage to the important influence of his Italian grandfather Gabriel Bottini, who was also a Midtown resident during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The painting will be prominently displayed in the new HACC Midtown Center atrium.

HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College, serves nearly 18,000 students in the 10-county Central Pennsylvania region. Another 50,000 students are served by the college’s workforce development and community education programs. The college operates campuses in Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, Gettysburg and a newly-opened center in York. Pennsylvania’s first community college and one of the oldest in the nation, HACC currently provides degree and diploma programs in more than 154 fields.

Powers & Associates, LLC, is a local developer dedicated to rehabilitation projects in previously developed areas in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, Lancaster and York Counties. The firm also engages in real estate brokerage, marketing and consulting services supporting its primary development activities. Powers and Associates principal Tom Powers has more than 15 years experience in the real estate development industry, and has been involved in many high profile Central PA development and consulting projects.

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