

**NEWS INFORMATION FROM  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE USE**  
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## **HACC PLANS MAJOR MIDTOWN CAMPUS EXPANSION AT 3<sup>RD</sup> & REILY STREETS & NEARBY AREAS**

**Harrisburg, PA** – Mayor Stephen R. Reed and Harrisburg Area Community College(HACC) President Dr. Edna V. Baehre today announced that the respected midstate community college will establish a major new campus facility at the vacant former Evangelical Press Building at N. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Reily Streets in the city’s midtown. Joining Reed and Baehre at today’s major redevelopment announcement were State Senator Jeffrey Piccola(15<sup>th</sup>) and State Representative Ron Buxton(103<sup>rd</sup>), as well as building owners and developers Doug Neidich, John Tierney and Tom Powers, of the city-based Powers and Associates and Evangelical Press Building LP.

Reed and Baehre said plans are now proceeding for HACC to significantly expand its existing midtown campus operations with the \$14 million rehabilitation of the 130,000 sq. ft. building, which was constructed in 1917 and most recently housed state offices and testing laboratories. HACC currently occupies the nearby Community Center for Technology and the Arts(CCTA), where building and other trade programs are taught and has long been in need of expanded space.

When completed, the new learning center will house HACC’s expanding technology and trade programs, including carpentry, home building and remodeling and industrial maintenance. The new campus facility will also serve as a resource center for junior and senior level high school students to receive college level classes and credits in the trades. HACC’s existing training center, at N. 4<sup>th</sup> and Harris Streets, will also undergo major renovations and expansion once the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Reily site is completed and classes are relocated into it.

Mayor Reed said the project is “one of the most important anchor renewal projects to occur in the midtown in years, and will have significant positive impact for generations to come. Midtown is about to become a hotbed for higher education, with considerable spin-off benefits.”

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**The Mayor also welcomed State Senator Jeffrey Piccola and State Representative Ron Buxton to the announcement, noting that the state legislature will be critical in helping the city secure the necessary urban redevelopment funds that are key to the project's financing.**

**“This is a plan for urban renaissance that will significantly expand the educational opportunities for all Central Pennsylvanians,” said Senator Piccola.**

**Representative Ron Buxton expressed his approval of the plan, noting that he was “particularly pleased with the public-private partnership established between HACC, the city, and the private developers, which together can make real improvements in people's lives that were difficult if not impossible individually.”**

**“We plan to expand a number of programs that will be housed here,” said President Baehre. “The value of this new 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 Baehre said that in addition to the major new rehab project, HACC will also renovate and expand its existing CCTA building, and build 700 new surface parking spaces for HACC students and faculty using the new facilities. 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 campus buildings 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. A city street will be vacated to create this pedestrian spine through the campus.**

**Reed said that in a related project, the city will soon issue a Request for Proposals to construct up to 350 units of student housing on parcels close-by to the expanded HACC Midtown campus. The units will be available to students attending any institution of higher learning and will not be exclusively for HACC students.**

**Further, he said, additional HACC Midtown Campus buildings and outdoor accessory space will be added to the campus for new and expanding college programs as needed to meet future demand.**

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**“The considerably enlarged college presence, with related student housing, combined with the more than doubling of the size of the Market Place 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 poised for a major economic boost,” Reed said.**

**HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College, serves nearly 17,000 students in the 10-county Central Pennsylvania region. Another 55,000 students are served by the college’s workforce development and community education programs.**

**The college operates campuses in Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lebanon, Gettysburg and at 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 and Associates, LLC, is a local developer dedicated to rehabilitation projects in previously developed areas in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, York and Lancaster 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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