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PRIDE



Almost Ready

Long-anticipated student
union at Golden Triangle
campus nears completion
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Student union nearing completion

New 76,000-square-foot facility will give the Golden Triangle campus room to grow

The opening during the fall of a two-story, 76,000-square-foot student union and multipurpose building under construction at East Mississippi Community College's Golden Triangle campus will help alleviate growing pains at the college and provide additional classroom, office and meeting space.

The new student union, designed by PryorMorrow, is expected to become a focal point for students looking to grab a bite to eat, visit with friends or prepare for their classes.

"We are incredibly excited about having this new facility at our Golden Triangle campus," EMCC President Dr. Thomas Huebner said. "While all our spaces — classrooms, labs, and even faculty and staff offices — are dedicated to student success, we are particularly excited about opening the

doors of a beautiful new building that will add spaces for students to meet, work, eat, lead, reflect and focus. This new building is designed with an understanding of how important it is for students to have a comfortable, state-of-the-art facility in which to learn."

The roughly \$16 million building will house a full-service cafeteria with a large open dining plan and a much larger bookstore than the one in use now, with lounge areas and more retail space for online e-books, laptop computers and tablets. Plans also call for 12 multi-purpose classrooms, a large lecture hall and a computer lab with about 100 work stations.

The need is great. When the Aaron Langston Student Center in the Douglas Building opened, enrollment at Golden Triangle was about 350 students. The number of students has grown tenfold since then.

EMCC Vice President for Instruction Dr. Thomas Ware said plans are eventually to move many of the math courses into the new student union, which will free up space in the math and science building.

"This will allow us to expand our science course offerings," Ware said.

Huebner said the new facility will enhance the college's ability to meet both current and future needs.

"The additional classrooms, computer labs, and learning spaces will be an asset for us as we work to provide educational opportunities for those in this part of east Mississippi," Huebner said. "I believe this new facility will be an excellent addition to the outstanding instruction taking place at EMCC and will open doors as we accommodate current enrollment needs and plan for future growth."



Interior photos taken May 2016