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updated: 4/15/2011 12:50:38 PM

## Plans For Advanced Manufacturing Center Move Forward

*InsideIndianaBusiness.com Report*

The state budget committee has approved a \$12 million Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Technology at the Vincennes University Jasper Campus. The facility will be built on land donated by MasterBrand Cabinets Inc. and construction could take up to two years to complete.



[Continued Below...](#)

April 15, 2011

### News Release

JASPER, Ind. – The Indiana State Budget Committee granted approval Friday to construct a \$12 million Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Technology at the Vincennes University Jasper Campus.

VU President Dick Helton said he is delighted that the long-planned project can proceed. "This new facility has outstanding support from the community, surrounding counties, economic development organizations, school corporations, and business leaders. We are particularly grateful for the support and leadership of the Dubois County Area Development Corporation that played such a key role in providing generous financial support and in attracting widespread support for the project," Helton said.

Helton also expressed appreciation to the Jasper Mayor and City Council and the Dubois County Council and Commissioners for their financial contributions and backing that was important in gaining state approval to move forward. "I also extend appreciation to the VU Jasper Advisory Committee for its important role in advancing this project," Helton said.

Authorized by the General Assembly in 2007 as part of VU's budget request, the project had previously received the approval of the

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Indiana Higher Education Commission - support that was reaffirmed at the Commission's February 11 meeting.

"I cannot thank our legislators from Southwest and South Central Indiana enough for their diligent work on behalf of this project. Special thanks go to State Senator Luke Kenley, who chairs both the Appropriations Committee and State Budget Committee, and State Representative Mark Messmer of Jasper. Their leadership helped make this facility a reality" Helton said.

The 57,342 square-foot building will be constructed at the VU Jasper Campus on land donated by MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc., Jasper. The two-story building will include at least 6 large group areas, 14 classrooms, lounges, auditorium, conference room, and office space. Once construction begins, completion of the building should take 20 to 24 months.

From the beginning, VU promoted the Center's role in bolstering the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in the greater Jasper area. Manufacturing is the largest employment sector in Dubois County, accounting for 42 percent of employment. The 15 largest employers provide nearly 11,000 jobs for residents of Dubois and surrounding counties.

Among the training programs and academic majors being considered for the Center are Computer-Integrated Manufacturing/Robotics, Precision Manufacturing/Injection Mold, Welding Technology, Computer Networking Security and Wireless, Biomedical Technician, and Mining Technology.

"This Center will provide needed training in hard skills such as industrial maintenance and hydraulics, as well as important soft-skills such as problem solving, team building, and communication. The result will be that area employees will be much better prepared to play key roles in ensuring that our manufacturers are highly competitive in a global economy" said Phil Rath, VU vice president of Financial Services and Government Relations. Rath represents VU in the legislature.

#### VU JASPER CAMPUS

The Vincennes University Jasper Campus is a vital part of Indiana's first college, Vincennes University, a state-supported college that traces its founding to 1801.

In addition to offering associate degree and certificate programs, VUJC also offers select baccalaureate programs. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, tuition and fees at VUJC rank among the most affordable of all Indiana colleges.

VU Jasper is located on a beautiful 140-acre campus on the southeast side of Jasper. Modern campus facilities include the Alvin C. Ruxer Student Center, Arnold F. Habig Technology Center, Administrative Classroom Building, and a New Classroom Building. Adjacent to the campus is the Jasper Arts Center that includes a 675-seat theatre and visual arts galleries.

The VU Jasper Campus fulfills the vision of a Dubois County citizens group, founded in 1960, that was dedicated to improving area education and cultural enrichment. With Vincennes University joining as a strong partner in 1970, the VU Jasper Campus has developed to serve thousands of students in Dubois, Spencer, Martin, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Pike, Orange, and Lawrence counties in Indiana.

Source: Vincennes university

