



By Shelly Springborn

State-of-the-art labs and classrooms, open and inviting spaces for student collaboration and floor to ceiling windows are just some of the features that bring a modern look and feel to the newly renovated Kenneth J. Smith Instructional Building on Montcalm Community College's Sidney campus.

All of these elements combine to enrich the community college experience for students, providing updated, modern facilities for education.

"We are so excited for this new space," said MCC President Stacy H. Young, Ph.D. "Areas throughout this building provide spaces and technology where our students will receive leading edge, hands-on learning to better prepare them for their careers."

The Smith Building was constructed in 1966 and last updated in 1999. It is a major campus destination as it holds more than half of the college's Sidney campus classroom space, its flagship nursing program, and courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The building features the Center for Nursing & Health Careers and the Center for STEM Learning.

The Smith Building project is part of the college's \$7 million "Transforming Lives, Empowering People" campaign, which aims to develop facilities and programs to help our students gain access and be successful during their journey at MCC and beyond.

With the transformation of the Smith Building, MCC's nursing students will benefit from some of the best facilities and technology available in the state as they train for careers in health care.

'Transforming lives, empowering people'

Renovations in MCC's Smith Building support students, learning

lab provides a space for students to draw blood and fill tubes for diagnostic blood testing, as well as run laboratory diagnostic testing other than blood.

Students taking STEM-related classes will also benefit from technology and facilities upgrades.

Renovation of science and biology labs has brought new life to the Smith Building and features leading-edge technology and facilities to continue to train students for careers in high-wage, high-demand career fields.

"Critical to most of today's expanding and emerging careers is competency in one or more of the STEM programs, curricula or courses," Dr. Young said. "MCC's commitment to preparing students for lifelong success requires that we provide more specialized STEM teaching and learning opportunities."

In addition to renovations made to science and biology classrooms and labs, the MCC Foundation funded the purchase of a virtual cadaver to provide more opportunities for students. The Anatomage 8.0 table features life-sized, head-to-toe specimens of four cadavers, showing three-dimensional veins, muscles, arteries, organs and bones that are fully dissectible and ready to explore with just the touch of a finger. This virtual experience allows students to be one-on-one with all the intricacies found within the human body at the convenience of a digital tablet. In addition, there are hundreds of animal cadavers – such as reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals – which will aid in instruction in a variety of other classes at the college.

Dr. Young said the college's *'Transforming Lives, Empowering People'* campaign and the Smith Building project supports the college's strategic plan and its mission.

"Educating the students in our service area helps grow the economy of our entire community and supports our mission of 'Transforming Lives Through Quality Education,'" Dr. Young said. ■

Clinical simulation labs, equipped with simulated manikins that can be programmed for more than 100 medical scenarios to mimic a human, allow students to get hands-on training in a controlled environment.

A clinical training and testing apartment features a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and handicap accessible doorway. It is a real-life teaching lab so students may learn how to evaluate a home for safety and how to navigate inside someone's home while learning how to provide in-home health care. It can also serve as a CENA testing lab for the state so students may come to MCC to complete their licensure training.

In addition, the Center for Nursing & Health Careers includes treatment rooms that are similar to a doctor's office.

Preparation and debriefing rooms provide a classroom setting for students and faculty to meet and discuss lessons before and after clinical simulation activities. A phlebotomy