

# CREATING A 'DYNAMIC' FUTURE

**'I don't know** of another community college that has taken advantage of this type of opportunity. This project is a win-win for everyone.'

**Galen DeHay**

Tri-County Tech senior vice president

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JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

The Oconee Industry and Technology Park has been recommended as the site for a Tri-County Technical College campus in the county. The proposal also includes a career center for high school students, adult education and county economic development offices.

## Highway 11 site picked for TCTC campus

Workforce development center also includes career center, adult education and county economic development

**BY STEVEN BRADLEY**  
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — The Oconee Industry and Technology Park on S.C. Highway 11 near Westminster has been recommended as the site for a Tri-County Technical College campus that will be part of a workforce development center in the county.

The new Oconee County Workforce Development Center will feature an Oconee campus of TCTC, a career center for high school students, adult education and the county economic develop-

### FOR MORE

To see a proposed layout of the new Oconee County Workforce Development Center at the Oconee Industry and Technology Park, turn to page A6.

TCTC made the site announcement Monday on behalf of a feasibility team consisting of representatives from the college, county, school district and local industry.

"We have the opportunity to create a dynamic center where education, economic development, workforce training and industry come

together in ways we have yet to imagine," said Galen DeHay, senior vice president of Tri-County Technical College and a member of the project team.

The site was selected after the team narrowed its search to four potential locations: 57 acres owned by Pattillo Construction on U.S. Highway 123 between Seneca and Westminster, OITP, an undisclosed property on S.C. 28 in the Bountyland area and the current site of the Covidien plant in Seneca.

OITP was chosen as the

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# TCTC: 'The project makes perfect sense'

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top site because of its size and proximity to the four public high schools in the county, according to SDOC assistant superintendent Steve Hanvey.

"There is enough land to build the type of center needed to meet all of our current and potential future needs, and it is the most centrally located of all sites considered," Hanvey said.

Initially, the project focused on a TCTC campus in Oconee, but earlier this year, the SDOC joined the conversation as it began planning for the construction of a new career center. Hanvey, who also serves on the project team, said co-location benefits the students and makes good economic sense.

"Generally speaking, career center students can use the facilities during the day and Tri-County

case it opted to proceed with a purchase option in place through the end of the year on the Pattillo site, though Moulder told The Journal in June "it may also be possible the school could be constructed on land we already own."

Now that it appears that will come to fruition, Moulder told The Journal on Monday that the plan is for that money to remain in the TCTC Millage Fund Balance.

Moulder also said no timeline has been established for the project.

"The feasibility team has been discussing the potential schedule and financial cost-sharing models, but nothing definitive at this point," he said.

The workforce development center will take up approximately 52 acres at the park, according to Oconee Economic Alliance executive director



center will be attractive to prospective industries because of the potential for shared space, on-site workforce training and a ready pipeline of prospective employees — all in the same location. "The project makes

perfect sense, and the center will certainly be a selling point to recruiting companies to locate in the park," Smith said.

According to DeHay, the co-located facility will allow students to move seamlessly between high

school classes, college classes and work-based learning in one high-quality, integrated educational experience at the same location.

"We have the opportunity to create a model for the rest of the country,"

DeHay said. "I don't know of another community college that has taken advantage of this type of opportunity. This project is a win-win for everyone."

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