

Tri-County Tech sets Oconee

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
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WESTMINSTER — Tri-County Technical College will hold a groundbreaking event for its much anticipated satellite campus in Oconee County at 10 a.m. July 14.

For the ceremony, which is set for the campus' future home at the Oconee Industry and Technology Park, representatives from county government, education and economic development will join TCTC officials to break ground on the first building to be constructed on the site of the future Oconee County Workforce Development Center. The public is invited.

The OITP, located on S.C. Highway 11 near Westminster, will be home to the Oconee campus of TCTC, a new career center for high school students, adult education and industry. The project

is a partnership between TCTC, the School District of Oconee County and Oconee County.

The dedication ceremony will feature comments from Tri-County president Ronnie Booth, Oconee businessman and chair of the College's Commission John Powell, SDOC superintendent Michael Thorsland, Oconee Economic Alliance board vice chair Zachary Hinton, Oconee County Council chair Edda Cammick, Rep. Bill Sandifer, Rep. Bill Whitmire and Sen. Thomas Alexander.

The 37,000-square-foot Oconee campus is estimated to cost \$7.25 million and will be paid for by state-appropriate funds. Oconee County provided land and site preparation valued at \$2.75 million, according to the release.

The \$2.75 million total came in under the price tag of \$3.1 million for which county council approved in March for full grad-

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ing of the industrial park, which in turn was well below the \$4 million council voted to bond the project for in December.

OEA executive director Richard Blackwell told a committee of council last month that grading work, projected to move 1.1 million cubic yards of dirt, had begun at the OITP.

Program offerings at the campus will support manufacturing in the region and will include CNC programming and operations, manufacturing management and leadership, business administration with an emphasis in operations management, industrial electronics technology and mechatronics.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative committed \$100,000 to the campus, which is the first major gift for the project.

The satellite campus is slated to open for the fall semester in 2018.

groundbreaking date



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Oconee County Council approved in March full grading of the remainder of the Oconee Industry and Technology Park on S.C. Highway 11 at a price tag of \$3.1 million. The park will be the site of the Oconee County Workforce Development Center, which will include a Tri-County Technical College satellite campus.