



## Press Release

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

No. 15-03

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Public Invited to YCCD Central Services Building Groundbreaking Ceremony**

MODESTO, CA – An historic event will take place at the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) on Wednesday, May 13 and the public is invited to attend. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Central Services Building project will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the site of the construction, located at 2201 Blue Gum Avenue in Modesto.

The administrative offices located at the Central Services site support the operations of both colleges within the YCCD, Columbia College and Modesto Junior College. The Central Services Building project provides for an updated office facility that will allow for increased operational efficiency in occupying one building, rather than three, as it is now. Additionally, the existing buildings were built 75+ years ago, in the 1940's, as a military base and were never considered as permanent structures. "The cost to bring the existing buildings to current building standards would far exceed the benefits. They have reached the end of their useful life in terms of infrastructure and capacity," stated Chancellor Dr. Joan Smith.

The new Central Services Building is designed as a steel structure with very high efficiency energy use. With LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Silver certification targeted as the design standard, "green" design features include on site storm retention and automatically operated natural ventilation. Energy conservation measures include a high efficiency mechanical system engineered to be 30%-38% more efficient than State standards, LED interior lighting, high efficiency glass, and insulation. The building is designed to be Net Zero ready, which means if a solar array is installed, as is currently in the plans, the building will produce as much power as it consumes. Chancellor Smith added, "The building will easily last one-hundred years and will result in energy cost savings."

The Central Services Building project is funded by Measure E bond proceeds and investment earnings not subject to arbitrage. Measure E, which was passed in November 2004 by voters in the area served by the YCCD, is a \$326.1 million bond measure for improvements within the YCCD and to increase access to educational opportunities in outreach areas. The \$21 million facility was designed by Darden Architects of Fresno and project management is by Kitchell of Modesto. Project completion is anticipated in fall 2016. “We waited until all other projects were completed or nearly completed before we began work on the Central Services Building,” Chancellor Smith commented.

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