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HOME

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

FACILITIES  
OPERATIONS &  
MAINTENANCE

FACILITIES PLANNING  
DESIGN &  
CONSTRUCTION

PROCUREMENT  
& LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE

ADMINISTRATION

DGS POLICE



## STATE GRANT AWARDED TO ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Governor Glendening Announces  
Approval of Grant for Student Services Center*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 29, 2001) – Building on his solid commitment to higher education in Maryland, Governor Parris N. Glendening today announced Board of Public Works approval of a \$7.7 million contract for the construction of a new Student Services Center at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). The State is providing a construction grant of \$3,454,000, while local government's share of the construction cost is \$4,236,000.

"Community colleges play a vital role in both opening the doors to higher education and preparing people for success in the workplace," said Governor Glendening. "The new center will give students easy access to critical resources in one central location. We are making an important investment in our students-- and our future."

Established in 1961, AACC offers associate degrees and certificate programs and awards the Associates of Arts, Associate of Sciences and Associate of Applied Sciences degrees. Additionally, the college's Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development offers extensive lifelong learning opportunities.

"The expansion and renovation at AACC will help provide an environment for the delivery of relevant, high quality learning experiences for both undergraduate and continuing adult education and training," said Maryland Higher Education Secretary Karen R. Johnson.

"Community colleges are the launching pads for future economic prosperity. They prepare students for four-year institutions and beyond and are the best resource for local businesses and industry in need of specialized training."

The board approved award of the contract to C.E.R., Inc., of Baltimore, the lowest of four companies that submitted bids. Design was handled by Bignell Watkins Hasser Architects of Annapolis. The building is expected to be completed the fall 2003.

The project includes construction of a 23,662 square-foot Student Services Center that will provide admission, financial aid, enrollment services, student life and other support services. The existing 44,604 square-foot Student Center, constructed in 1975, will be renovated for use as a Student Union to house food services and the college cafeteria.

The Maryland Department of General Services' Project Management and Design Division reviews community college construction projects. In FY 2000 and in FY 2001 to date, 51 community college contracts valued at more than \$72 million have been awarded across the State.

From 1995-2000, Maryland community college enrollment grew an average of less than one percent; AACCS's enrollment increased more than 20 percent. In 2000, 50,474 individuals took classes at AACCS representing a 21 percent headcount increase since 1996.

The National Alliance of Business (NAB) recently selected AACCS as winner of the prestigious Community College of the Year Distinguished Performance Award. AACCS is the first Maryland higher education institution and the fourth community college in the nation to receive the NAB honor. The college was recognized for its efforts to improve student achievement, successfully connecting the curriculum to meet business and community needs, forming effective partnerships resulting in innovative programs and producing exceptional institutional results.

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