



New Vocational Technical School Slated for Yakima

The Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-Tech) has recently announced plans to expand into a new building located on River Road in Yakima. Groundbreaking on the 90,000+ square foot facility will take place in the fall of 2008 with plans to accept students in the fall of 2009.

YV-Tech offers a variety of technical training programs designed to support key companies and industries within the region. The skills center offers programs and customized training in several areas including health care, computer technology, carpentry, aviation technology and more. According to David McFadden, New Vision President, "YV-Tech works closely with local industries to design and deliver programs that are tailored to meet their specific requirements. Their expansion will help us respond to new industry demands and complement other existing vocational programs within the region."

As a result of the expansion, YV-Tech plans to add new programs in the culinary arts, wine industry, and computer-engineering and also allows more capacity to expand other programs such as nursing and computer programming. Demand is so great for the nursing program that YV-Tech is expanding in Sunnyside this fall as well. According to YV-Tech Director Craig Dwight, "We just can't produce enough (graduates in nursing). We had 100-percent placement for our graduates."

Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center works closely with Yakima Valley Community College, Perry Technical Institute and other technical and community colleges to provide advanced placement and credits for high schools students that complete the programs. Currently, over 50 percent of the YV-TECH programs are connected to post secondary training. This significantly reduces student-training time and costs beyond the high school level and allows students to enter the work force sooner and with applicable industry training.