

he new Bonnie Avenue parking structure has been in operation for more than a year and has been widely acclaimed both for its functionality and its aesthetics. The addition of a parking structure on a campus usually does not improve the overall ambience of a campus, although by all accounts, ours is an exception. And, of course, with the traffic and parking situations working so much better, the neighbors are also very happy with the new structure.

Now everyone's attention is being focused on the next three big projects, and numerous smaller ones as well.

The next large project is the Industrial Technologies Building (ITB), which will house much of the Engineering & Technology Division. Programs that will be housed in the new building include: building construction, welding, machine shop, automotive, electrical, electronics, and the division office. While we tried to include several additional programs, the budget ultimately would not permit this. Therefore, the architecture, screen printing, and digital imaging programs will be moved into the V Building at the appropriate time. Six new tennis courts will also be constructed to replace the eight that currently exist. The architects are about to begin the laborious job of completing the working drawings, and we can expect that construction will begin in the third quarter of 2007.

We had originally planned to complete the third new building, a new Campus Center, after the ITB. However, with the rapid escalation of construction prices, we had to seek creative solutions. Therefore, it was decided to keep the existing Campus Center, as the structure is a good one, but to radically remodel it in order to make it functional for years to come. The new construction component will thus be limited to the addition of a new building to be positioned roughly where the existing Bookstore is. The new building will be a two-story Campus Bookstore, with Campus Police and the Student Business Services housed on part of the second floor. We decided to complete the Campus Center project concurrent with the ITB as another way of saving money. Both the Campus Center project and the ITB should take between 18 and 24 months to build.

The last of the major projects to be built as part of Master Plan 2010 will be the Arts Building, which will be the new home for both the Visual Arts & Media Studies and the Performing & Communication Arts divisions. The district has narrowed its search of architects down to three firms, with selection interviews and site visits now underway. This project is slated for construction beginning in 2009.

Of course, there are numerous smaller projects that are on the drawing boards

This list includes refurbishing classrooms, laboratories, restrooms, and elevators, along with a host of other building amenities and systems. These projects will be occurring throughout the remaining time that we are working on Measure "P." The goal is to have all projects completed within the next six years.

Everyone in the state is seeing the same inflationary effects in construction costs, and many others are being forced to simply cut the number of projects to be undertaken. PCC has taken a very different view in that we fully intend to do everything that we promised the voters we would do. While this requires a little more effort and creativity, we feel strongly that this is the path that best serves our customers. Everyone can be certain that when Measure "P" is completed, the students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the PCC Campus will be far better served than at any other time in its history.



