

Bids on WPCC building to be accepted Dec. 16

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Construction will begin early next year on a new building at Western Piedmont Community College. The new building, to be called "The College Center," will provide new classroom space and will house various student services.

The two story building will be approximately 25,000 square feet in size and will cost an estimated \$1 million. It will be built adjacent to the present main building on the west side.

Bids for construction will be accepted on Dec. 16. Construction should begin this winter and take about one year to complete. The architect is Odell Associates of Charlotte.

The County Commission will pay half the cost of the building. The other half will be paid by a federal grant to the state through the Vocational Education Act.

"It is a much needed facility, because we're bulging at the seams," WPCC President Gordon C. Blank said. He explained that the school's 1730 degree students and 3500 continuing education students are creating the strain on the present facilities.

"The intent is to provide appropriate facilities for various functions that heretofore have been makeshift," Dr. Blank said. He said the food service and student services facilities were particularly inadequate in the present main building.

The upper level of the building will house the college lounge, three classrooms, and offices for the Division of Student Services and the student government. The Division of Student Services handles guidance, registration, admissions, and financial aid. Other student clubs will also have space on the upper level.

A student snack bar, recreation spaces,

and the bookstore will be on the lower level. The new snack bar will accommodate 200 students, while the present one can seat only 60.

"You might think of it as the college living room," Dr. Blank said of the planned structure.