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## GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CAREER TRAINING CENTER PROMISES STRONGER FUTURE FOR AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

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On Wednesday morning, September 27, 2023, members of the Morris County Board of Commissioners, Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) Board, and key leadership from the County College of Morris, and USA Architects, gathered with the community to commemorate the groundbreaking of the new Career Training Center (CTC) sited on the campus of the County College of Morris (CCM). Located at 214 Center Grove Road in Randolph, NJ, the building will offer students the resources to learn technical skills that will prepare them for both college and future career opportunities.

Today's groundbreaking marked an incredible milestone for the long-awaited new Career Training Center at the CCM. Starting in 2018, and in a strategic and highly collaborative partnership, MCVSD and CCM have created an educational space for high school students that provides them full access to focused skill development in 21st century fields. The project is being backed by the state's Securing Our Children's Future (SOCF) Bond Act and the Morris County Commissioners. In the spirit of true partnership, MCVSD Superintendent Scott Moffitt welcomed to the podium many of the advocates behind the new CTC, including Senator Anthony Bucco, Assemblywoman Aura Dunn, Morris County Commissioner John Krickus, MCVSD Board of Education President Barbara Dawson, CCM Trustees Chairman Geroge Milonas, and CCM President Dr. Anthony Lacono. Each spoke ardently about the need to make this kind of investment in a students' future.

"This building will house the tools and learning environment for 500 additional students. They will be receiving an educational opportunity and knowledge they can utilize to build the foundation for their future endeavors and life. I look forward to the next time we will be gathering on this site. maybe over there [site of the new CTE building] at that building where we will be having a ribbon cutting" said Barbara Dawson, President of the MCVSD Board of Education.

The new building will welcome 500 high school students and house ten new career and technical education programs for students in eleventh and twelfth grade. The programs include fields in healthcare, business, emerging technology, and artificial intelligence. With a state-of-the-art building equipped with the tools and resources students need—the school will be able to better prepare students for the hands-on careers that are currently in high demand. All programs will include college credits, internships in the career field, industry credentials, and certifications. Once a student completes their program, they will be prepared to enter the workforce or continue their education at CCM, or a four-year college or university.

The new CTC is a part of the thirty percent expansion on CCM's campus. The new school will be located adjacent to the new Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Building (also designed by USA Architects and completed in 2020). The CTC will be a two story, 46,350 sf facility that offers state-of-the-art, 21st century science and technology laboratory spaces, educational spaces, administration, and faculty support spaces. The instructional lab spaces include Cyber Security Lab/Cyber Range, Health

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Care Lab, Social Media Lab, Data Analytics Lab, Computer Aided Design Lab, Virtual Reality Lab, Robotics Lab, two Makerspaces, Bloomberg Space – Finance Lab, and Photonics Lab.

“We [Morris County] are providing the skills for our residents, our businesses, and our country needs so we protect the strong and prosperous free world.” Morris County Commissioner, John Krickus.

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*USA Architects is an award-winning mid-size architecture firm with locations in Somerville, NJ, Philadelphia, PA and Easton, PA. Founded in 1985, USA's designs inspire community, creating impactful environments where people learn, work, and play. The firm offers architectural, interior and planning services within Government, Justice, K-12, Higher Education, Science and Technology, Commercial and Corporate markets.*

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