Cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening of GCC’s new Core building means more than opening the door to expanded physical space for people to learn and work. According to David Ram, Chief Academic & Student Affairs Officer, “This enhanced space will serve as the heart of the campus, literally and figuratively, providing circulation for students who are the lifeblood of the campus. From the ground-level entrance up through the fourth floor, the new Core incorporates universal design principles to meet the needs of all our students. Students will be able to move fluidly from the enlarged Cafeteria and blended Enrollment Services on the first floor to Student Life and Cultural Center on the second, up to the expanded Library and enhanced learning Center on the upper floors.”

continued inside
The New Core of GCC

At-A-Glance

Main Entrance
- The 44 front stairs have been removed and there is now a gentle, accessible sloped walkway into the Main Entrance.
- Outside seating arrangements will be available on the terrace in front of the building as well as adjacent to the sloped accessed areas.
- An Elevator to all floors intersecting with glass lined and light filled north/south corridors.

First Floor
- The Main Lobby will be fully accessible, light-filled and welcoming to all.
- The two story multi-use Dining Commons will allow for up to five different venues:
  - Sit down meal arrangements for both college and community events;
  - Auditorium seating with a panel discussion group located at the front of the building;
  - A Band on Stage and Dance Floor set up with a dining arrangement;
  - A large screen projection system will support large college and community gatherings/lecture/presentation settings;
- Integrated “one Stop” Student Services such as Testing, Advising, Financial Aid and the Registrar.

Second Floor
- Student Support and Development departments such as The Women’s Resource Center, Education Transitions Program, Student Life, Community Access and Next Step Up Program.

Third Floor
- New and Expanded Learning Commons, encompassing an expanded Library with six study rooms and a large Reading Room overlooking Franklin County.
- The Two Story Learning Commons will further integrate Peer Tutoring, Counseling, Distance Learning, Disability Service and The MacLeish Collection/Meeting Room.

Lower Level
- Physical Plant and Support Services including A Painter’s Room, Carpentry Shop, Central Admin Services, Emergency Generator Rooms and a Loading Dock w/ a retractable door.
- Three Elevators will provide access to and within the Core (in contrast to one combined Service/Passenger elevator).

Tim Farrell, Chair of GCC’s Board of Trustees, praises the new Core, saying “GCC could be successful in a one room school house. This new facility makes an already great college even better. We have always been proud of our staff, faculty, and students. Thanks to the hard work of many, we can now be proud of our campus as well.”

The Core... So Much More Than Just A New Building

continued from cover

Main Entry from inside

The Dining Commons

The new and expanded Learning Commons

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All at GCC are excited about the opening of our newly refurbished Core. The revitalized and redesigned core building is strengthening the very core of GCC. Symbolically, this new building is the physical embodiment of GCC’s core values.

As each student enters GCC, she/he will experience fewer barriers and increased access. The 44 front steps that have been a physical and emotional barrier since 1973, have been removed and replaced by a level walkway into the new entry. Elevator access at the front door will lift students to every floor of the college with glass-enclosed north and south passages opened for the first time.

Our students will engage with staff in offices on the first and second floors purposefully integrated with student services and student success in mind. On the third and fourth floors, students, faculty, staff and our community will find a magnificent new library and learning commons designed to open the horizons of all who enter with vistas of Franklin County and stacks of the greatest ideas ever published surrounding them. This now elevates the library and integrates the learning commons more harmoniously with the students’ overall college experience and GCC’s service to the community.

All students, faculty and staff will once again be able to join together in our new food service environment. Just as we gather in our kitchen at home, our cafeteria is the space in which community is created. And this new kitchen will cook up some of our local farms’ finest produce.

The new building is built for the long term. It is designed to positively impact our natural environment with sustainability and energy conservation and self-generation being a key expression of the colleges’ values. Geothermal wells and LEED certification puts into practice what we teach in our Renewable Energy Program.

And finally, GCC’s strengthened core will certainly be the beacon of light it represents to the students and community that we serve. By daylight we will illuminate the learning process with an abundance of natural light streaming in and by night our light will shine brightly out into the hills and valley shouting out from our very core:

All are welcome!
All can learn!
All can succeed!

—Robert L. Pura
Scenes from the Ribbon Cutting

“All are welcome!” — GCC President Bob Pura

Top to bottom:
MA Secretary of Education Paul Reville speaks about the importance of supporting public higher education and congratulates the GCC community on the transformative outcome of the major construction project.

GCC students Jeremy Birchall and Michael Lewis, President of the college’s Veteran’s Network student organization, lead the assembly in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Timothy Farrell, Chair of the GCC Board of Trustees, thanks the MA state agencies and legislative delegation for the $31.5 million funding through the MA Higher Education Bond Bill to renovate and expand the core of the main campus.