

Construction progresses at Hill Country University Center

Updated: 8/15/2009 5:35:43 PM
By: Russell Wilde News 8 Austin

The foundation has been laid for the building that [Hill Country University Center](#) Executive Director Jimmy Sparks hopes will make higher education more accessible to people who live and work in the area.

"We call it a one-stop-shop for higher education in the region," he said.

Several institutions will share the up and coming building. Austin Community College, Angelo State, Concordia, and Texas Tech will all offer courses ranging from general education to doctorate degrees.

"Everyone contributes what they can do best, nobody duplicates the other university or colleges' efforts," Bob Hickerson, Texas Tech's chief operating officer for off-campus sites, said.

Since the building is shared, the schools save money on infrastructure. The location also allows students from 15 counties easy access to further their education.

"Maybe they've lost a job, or maybe they've got a divorce and they're having to work and they have children, and it's difficult for them to drive to Austin or San Antonio to get their higher education. You can get it all done right here," Sparks said.

The build will sit on a 68-acre site, with expectations of growth as demand increases.

"Education is becoming a lifelong product now. By taking these study centers to the people we'll be able to service that population from right out of high school throughout their lifelong learning, career development needs," Hickerson said.

Classes are currently being taught in nearby school buildings and hundreds of degrees have already been awarded.

"Now we can pull this all under one roof, and sort of give us some visibility, and have a place that students can go and call their own," Sparks said.

For more information about the university, and the programs it offers, visit HCUCenter.org.



The foundation has already been laid for the new building.



When complete, the new university center should look something like this.