



## Cuyahoga, Lorain and Lakeland community colleges adding buildings for growing enrollment, to offer more degree options

Published: Saturday, January 29, 2011, 5:20 AM



By **Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer**

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Community colleges are expanding to provide more classrooms for growing enrollment and to allow students to stay on site to study for bachelor's and masters degrees from local universities.

**Lakeland Community College** will lease a 40,000-square-foot building from a private developer who will build it across the street from the college's entrance in Kirtland.

Elyria-based **Lorain County Community College** is building a new center in North Ridgeville, about eight miles from its main campus, to provide classes for students in eastern Lorain County and western Cuyahoga County.

**Cuyahoga Community College's** Brunswick University Center opens Monday and will offer Tri-C's first on-site bachelor's and master degree programs.

"We always had students asking about more options," said Jessica Novak, spokeswoman for Lakeland. "We looked at building a building on the campus but it would take three to five years and we wanted to get this out quicker."

Lakeland trustees agreed Thursday to pay \$881,000 per year in a 15-year lease with Premier Development Partners in Cleveland. The agreement includes three, five-year options to renew and an option to purchase the building, which will be on the northwest corner of Ohio 306 and Kirtland Road.

The building, with at least 20 classrooms, will open in August. It will allow the college to offer more core classes and provide temporary classroom space so existing classrooms can be renovated.

Partnerships are being arranged with several universities to provide bachelor's and master's degree programs on site, Novak said. Currently **Cleveland State University** offers several degree programs at Lakeland.



Lakeland Community College

This is a rendering of Lakeland Community College's proposed University Center.

Cleveland State has also agreed to provide programs at Tri-C's new building in Brunswick, along with **Tiffin University**, Tri-C spokesman Dan Minnich said.

Cleveland State, which offers bachelor and masters degree programs at Lorain County Community College, had not considered providing courses to Tri-C in the past because the community college was close to CSU.

Tri-C has offered its courses at Brunswick High School for three years and increasing enrollment led it to move to a new 30,000-square-foot building, Minnich said.

The college is also talking to **Kent State University** about a partnership, he said.

Lorain County Community College has a University Center at its Elyria campus. It's partnerships with eight universities allow students to select from nearly 40 different bachelor's and master's degrees.

The college's new building in North Ridgeville, expected to open in 2012 at the intersection of Interstate 480 and Lorain Road, will reduce the commute for area students and help ease the enrollment crunch at the main campus.

**To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:** kfarkas@plaind.com, 216-999-5079

© 2011 cleveland.com. All rights reserved.