

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

In 1928 the Legislature of the State of Mississippi adopted the first basic laws for the organization and operation of Mississippi public junior colleges. East Central Junior College opened its doors to a freshman class of twenty students for the first regular session in September of 1928. Originally, the College occupied three buildings that were a part of the Newton County Agricultural High School which had been organized in 1914. The Agricultural High School was located on property belonging to the Decatur Municipal School District, which had been created in 1912. The upper high school grades that comprised the Newton County Agricultural High School were a part of the College until 1958 when they moved to the Decatur Attendance Center.

During the College's first year of operation two counties supported the institution: Newton (fall of 1928) and Neshoba (spring of 1929). In the fall of 1930, Scott County closed its agriculture high school and transferred its county support to East Central. Then, in the fall of 1931, Leake County Junior College was closed and its trustees and students joined the East Central Junior College district. In addition, Winston County began its involvement with the College in 1935.

From its beginning in three buildings with two instructors, Mrs. Stella Newsome and Mr. Robert Marshall, the College has grown significantly. The College physical plant consists of 150 acres with over thirty (30) instructional and service buildings, residence halls, athletic facilities/ fields, and faculty houses. The total value of College facilities is over \$89 million. In addition, the College employs over 200 full- time personnel and operates with a budget of over \$40 million. Eight (8) presidents have served the institution since its founding.

In the beginning there was one curriculum - Liberal Arts. However, in 1945 a serious effort was made to provide vocational programs and after World War II five full-time, non-credit programs were offered. During the early sixties, the College's vocational and technical programs were expanded as funds permitted and by the early seventies the College offered eight vocational programs and three technical programs. In 1988, the College's name was changed to East Central Community College to reflect the expanded role of the College in the five-county district.

At the turn of the century East Central Community College provided instruction in university transfer programs, thirteen technical programs, four vocational programs, six secondary vocational programs in Neshoba County, Adult Education/High School Equivalency programs in all five support counties, and non-credit business and industrial training opportunities in all five support counties. Many of these instructional programs, services, and activities continue today.

East Central Community College earned initial accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1939 and has had its accreditation reaffirmed each decade since. Today, the College holds membership in such organizations as the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Mississippi Association of Colleges (MAC), and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC).

COLLEGE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Through the cooperative efforts of the district and the state legislature, the College has experienced growth in buildings and facilities during the past several years. The College plant consists of approximately 150 acres with buildings and facilities now valued at over \$89 million. There are 30 main brick buildings. In addition to facilities sufficient to sustain the general education program, laboratories are provided for art, engineering drawing, audio visual education, applied music, dramatics, reading, athletic and recreation activities, and scientific and technical education.

WALTER ARNO VINCENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Occupied at the beginning of the 1978-79 school year, the administration building houses the offices of the president, vice president for instruction, vice president for business operations, vice president for institutional research and effectiveness, director for technology management, director of human resources, and the Board of Trustees' Conference room. Proper vault facilities for the business office and adequate storage for all offices are provided in the building. The 7,995 square foot facility was built in 1962 as the library for the College but was renovated for administrative use when the Burton Library was occupied. It is located on the front of the campus adjacent to Huff Auditorium.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ERMA LEE BARBER HALL

With more than 26,500 square feet, this dormitory houses approximately 128 women. This addition to the campus was opened in the fall of 1999.

PHIL A. SUTPHIN HALL

Containing over 20,000 square feet of floor space, this facility opened in 1996 and houses the associate degree nursing, practical nursing, and child care programs. This modern facility contains classrooms, lecture rooms, computer labs, and laboratories.

BRACKEEN-WOOD PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

This building was constructed in 1970 and is located near the football stadium. Offices for football, baseball, basketball, and soccer are housed in this facility in addition to dressing facilities, a training room, the varsity basketball court, and the athletic weight room.

BRADFORD J. TUCKER APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Containing more than 58,000 square feet of floor space, this facility opened in 1969 and houses automotive technology, collision repair technology, business and office technology, computer technology, electrical technology, general engineering technology, heating and air conditioning technology, machine shop technology, automation and control technology, and welding.

MAMIE ETHEL BURTON LIBRARY

Occupied during the 1976-77 academic year, Burton Library is located near the center of campus and contains a large reading/research area, a spacious lobby with Instructional Counselor Offices, a Mississippi State University Academic Advisor, Success Center / Testing Center, librarians' offices, a workroom, study rooms, and two special collections (The Mississippi Room containing archival items and AV collection and the Memorabilia Room). The Memorabilia Room also serves as the military friendly meeting space. Total seating capacity for 135 patrons is strategically located in mostly individual carrels, computer stations and tables for group work. Shelving is provided for the housing of approximately 50,000 volumes. Provisions are made for non-book materials in a variety of formats and technologies. The Burton Library Management System is OPALS.

FRANK M. CROSS HALL

With 18,652 square feet of floor space, this facility contains classroom space for science courses and a laboratory facility for the chemical sciences. In 1990, the chemistry laboratory was completely renovated with modern laboratory tables, equipment, and controlled, vented chemical storage areas added. An extensive renovation was also completed August 2014. This renovation included demolition of two 35 seat classrooms and two laboratory classrooms. These demolished rooms were replaced with the addition of two 100 seat classrooms and two 60 seat classrooms. In addition, a 32-seat capacity classroom and a 27-seat capacity classroom were renovated. The existing Chemistry Laboratory was also updated and restroom facilities were expanded.

AARON R. DAVIS SCIENCE BUILDING

This building was completed in 2011 and contains 17,300 square feet. It houses the physics labs, microbiology lab, 4 biology labs and 7 instructor offices. It is named in honor of the late Aaron Ronald Davis, longtime biology instructor and science division chairperson.

FACULTY HOUSES

There are twelve (12) single family houses located at various sites on the college property.

FOUNDERS GYMNASIUM

One of the original college facilities, the gymnasium has hosted many regional and state basketball events in addition to regular East Central games. The building, constructed in 1930, was dedicated as part of Homecoming activities held Oct. 10, 1998, in tribute to Dr. Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Hunter, Mr. James "Jim" McDonald Thames and the many others who were instrumental in the establishment of East Central Junior College in 1928. A renovation project was completed in June 2014, to return the front façade of the facility to the original elevation.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RICHARD C. ETHRIDGE HALL

Part of the old Newton County High School property purchased by the College in 1995, this facility is currently used by the College for academic classes, AE/HSE classes, and office space. The Decatur Public Library is also housed in this facility. This facility is located on South Campus.

J. KNOX HUFF AUDITORIUM

Located in the center of the front campus, Huff Auditorium is the most prominent building at East Central Community College. The auditorium was constructed in 1953 and named for J. Knox Huff who served as a member of the Board of Trustees of East Central Junior College for twenty-three years. He served as Chairman of the Board from 1948 through 1952. This structure has a seating capacity of 838 and is conveniently located at the front of the campus. The auditorium has excellent acoustics and equipment and is used by the College and community for a variety of activities. Located on the ground floor are faculty offices and the office of Public Information. A major refurbishing of Huff Auditorium in 1990 was funded by donations to the East Central Community College Foundation, Inc. New auditorium seating was installed in 2014 and restrooms were renovated in 2016.

MRS. J.L. JACKSON HALL

One of the original buildings on campus, this three-story women's dormitory was remodeled in 1963, 1978 and again in 1989. It houses 125 women and contains the office and apartment of the dormitory supervisor.

LEAKE HALL

This two-story building containing sixteen apartments was originally constructed for married students. Today it is occupied by both faculty, staff, honor students, and married students. A major renovation of this building was completed during the 1994 spring semester.

W.M. MABRY CAFETERIA

Remodeled in 1979, this facility contains four dining rooms. The main dining room has a seating capacity of 300. Other dining rooms are the Molly McGee Gold Room, which seats 120; the Gordon Room, which seats 50; and the Magnolia Room, which seats 20. A major renovation was completed in 2017. This renovation included expanding the main dining room to include the Molly McGee Gold Room. The existing serving lines for the main dining room and the Molly McGee Gold Room were renovated to allow for additional menu options. In addition, the Gordon Room and the Magnolia Room were combined with a French doorway installed to allow for multiple functions.

NESHOBA HALL

This two-story dormitory for men was constructed in 1971. It consists of thirty-one rooms which house sixty-two students.

STELLA W. NEWSOME HALL

Completed in 1957, and renovated in 1989, the dormitory is equipped with modern furniture and appliances and accommodates fifty to sixty men and the dormitory supervisor. Extensive interior renovations were completed in 2015.

NEWTON HALL

This two-story classroom building was constructed in 1975 and houses the English, Social Science, History, Education, and Psychology departments. Also, sixteen faculty offices are located in this building along with several support facilities.

FRANK T. RIVES EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

Part of the old Newton County High School property purchased by the College in 1995, this facility is currently used by the College for the Surgical Technology Program, the Emergency Medical Technician training, a Computer Science Lab, academic classes, and office space. This facility is located on South Campus.

EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

F. CLINTON RUSSELL MAINTENANCE COMPLEX

This facility was constructed in 1947 and was utilized by the Mississippi Army National Guard from that date until 2006, by virtue of a 99 year lease agreement with the College. In 2006, the lease was terminated and reverted back to the College. This facility houses the office of the physical plant superintendent and also provides space for the various maintenance operations of the College.

At the time of construction, the main building of the complex was dedicated and named for General W. P. "Pat" Wilson who served the College as teacher, coach, and athletic director from 1933 until 1940. In 1947 he was appointed Adjutant General for the State of Mississippi.

In 2006, the complex was named in honor of Mr. F. Clinton Russell who served the College as Physical Plant Director from 1964 until his retirement in 1992.

SCOTT HALL

This two-story dormitory for men was constructed in 1972. It consists of an apartment for the staff and thirty-one rooms which house sixty-two students.

SOUTH CAMPUS GYMNASIUM

Part of the old Newton County High School property purchased by the College in the fall of 1995, this facility is currently being used by the College for overflow athletic events, camps, and the Student Activity Center.

EDDIE M. SMITH STUDENT UNION

Student Services moved into this modern 12,500 square foot complex in the summer of 1999. This modern building houses Student Services, Financial Aid, Admissions Records, and the Career Center. This complex also contains conference rooms and counselors' offices. Phase II of the Student Union opened during the spring of 2006. This 20,749 square foot addition to the Student Union houses the Office of Admissions and Records, the Student Grill, Bookstore, Wellness Center, and office of eLearning Education.

THOMAS W. THRASH AUDITORIUM

In 2009, the auditorium located on the first floor of Newton Hall was named in memory of longtime faculty member, Thomas W. Thrash, to honor his 40 years of service to the College. The auditorium is used by the College as a classroom and meeting facility. New auditorium seating was installed in 2015.

L.O. TODD HALL

This dormitory for men was completed in 1957. It is arranged in suites rather than conventional halls found in most men's dormitories. Seventy two men are housed in this dormitory. A total renovation was completed in 1989. Extensive interior renovations were completed in 2015.

THE OVID S. VICKERS FINE ARTS CENTER

Occupied in 1969, this facility contains a 204 seat auditorium, a choral room, a band room, a music library, a listening room, classrooms, and art studios. New auditorium seating was installed in 2015 and included ADA accessible seating.

THE CAREER & TECHNICAL ANNEX BUILDING

Completed in 1969, this building located on the north side of the campus houses Cosmetology, Carpentry Technology, Resource and Referral Center for the Early Childhood Academy, and Student Support Services.

WARRIOR SOFTBALL FACILITY

Completed in 2014, this 1,100 square foot facility houses the Lady Warrior softball team and contains a dressing room and two offices for coaches.

WINSTON HALL

Originally built in 1957, this residence hall was completely renovated in 1989 and 1990 with structural changes to bring it up to modern standards for housing students. It consists of forty-one rooms which house eighty-two students.

WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALL

With more than 32,000 square feet, this dorm houses approximately 112 women. This addition to the campus was opened in the fall of 2017. The building is both aesthetically pleasing and functional in design.