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LTC students produce drawing of new campus

By Susie Cambre

GREENSBURG - Louisiana Technical College officials Thursday showed off their students' drawings of the \$8.1 million school soon to be built in the area.

Instructor Joni Hickson's drafting students from the LTC Sullivan campus in Bogalusa produced the drawings.

Ponchatoula resident Lindsey Cardinale of "American Idol" fame, who is a practical nursing student at LTC, sang the Star-Spangled Banner.

Rebecca Rice, developmental studies instructor, provided the invocation.

They joined some 200 guests for a celebration Thursday at the 57-year-old campus.

One of the oldest in the state, the Greensburg campus has grown too small for the students lining up for the numerous career programs offered. The student population this semester is more than 619. The college offers more than 12 accredited programs, Dean Sharon Hornsby said.

William Wainwright, regional director of Louisiana Technical Colleges Region 9, called the development "a fresh start to building a stronger Louisiana."

Among the crowd were State Sen. Ben Nevers, State Rep. Robby Carter, Louisiana Technical Colleges President Joe May, Board of Supervisors Helen Carter, Mickey Murphy and Jim Henderson, senior vice president of Louisiana

See LTC, 3A

Workforce.

"Dr. Joe May and Governor Blanco, Sen. Nevers and Rep. Robby Carter have been working diligently with the

Louisiana Legislature to acquire \$173 million for 23 capital outlay projects at 14 Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges across the state, Wainwright said.

The technical college in Greensburg will use its \$8.1 million to buy land and build a structure which can accommodate the large growth in student population enrolling now and in the future, he said.

Nevers said community and technical colleges will provide critical solution to Louisiana's unmet workforce needs.

"Labor shortages indicated by disparity between worker supply and demand can be detrimental to a state's economic growth and development," he said.

Three properties are being considered for the new school and the decision will be made soon, Wainwright said. All three properties are in the immediate area in Greensburg.

“We like it here. It's a good location, and the community has been good to us,” Hornsby said.

“Our students are learning, creating and doing this wonderful work. Our alumni have learned and are out there in the workforce demonstrating achievement and yes, there are so many waiting for their chance to make their way in the world with careers they can be proud and earn a good living,” ceremony organizer Jo Ellen Carruth said.