

April 12, 2002

Dear Editor:

On April 11, Parkland College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its new Academic & Instructional Services wing. With enrollments increasing nearly five percent this spring, the timing of the wing's opening could not have been better.

For several years, Parkland has struggled to meet the needs of students, despite a severe shortage of classroom and office space. Fortunately, the proposed new wing was included in Governor Ryan's budget in 1999 and the college received a planning grant from the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Capital Development Board. Special thanks must go to our local legislators, Congressman Tim Johnson, who was in the Illinois House at the time; Representative Rick Winkel, and especially State Senator Stan Weaver.

All in all, this new wing has 22 classrooms/labs, 14 computer classrooms/labs/multi-media classrooms, 42 offices, and 4 conference rooms. It houses: the Cooperative Learning Center, which includes the Learning Lab, Peer Tutoring, and the Writing Center; the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services, the Center for Virtual Learning, our award-winning Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, to name a few.

It's a beautiful facility. Best of all, it will enhance learning for Parkland's students. Please visit the new wing when you have a chance.

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