

January 12, 2004

Dear Editor:

One of the most important things Parkland College can do in our community is to form partnerships that promote better lives for our citizens. Over the last three years, our partnership with the building trades unions has blossomed. Several certificates and one degree program have been developed in cooperation with local unions that will allow persons completing their apprenticeship programs, along with a few additional courses at the college, to receive a certificate or Associate of Applied Science degree from Parkland. This equates to one or two years of postsecondary education.

The College has also partnered with the East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More), and local contractors to create the Construction Education Alliance. This alliance is in the process of constructing an educational facility in the north end of the old K's Merchandise building on north Mattis. This facility will be used by Parkland's Construction Design and Management program and its Building Construction and Repair program. Local unions will use it as an annex facility for their apprenticeship training programs. Local contractors will use a plan room to access architectural project plans to prepare bids that will generate jobs for local construction workers and bring additional revenue into the Champaign-Urbana and surrounding area economy. T.E.A.M. offices will also be located there.

These are important partnerships to the College and for District 505. The building and construction industry is a major part of the economy in this area and we are proud to be involved in service to this segment of our constituency.

Sincerely,

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