

A look inside new MCC Downtown Campus

[James Goodman](#), @goodman_dandc

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Monroe Community College's new downtown digs were on display Friday morning.

The new campus occupies 255,000 square feet in a complex of renovated buildings that were once part of the Eastman Kodak Co.'s corporate headquarters.

Meeting spaces and innovative classrooms are among the features of this campus, which has also become the home of MCC's Economic & Workforce Development Center.



Joel Frater

(Photo: provided)

"It is very important to have high quality learning space — and this provides high quality space," said Downtown Campus Executive Dean Joel Frater.

And he said: "It's an opportunity for collaborative learning."

"Collaboratories"— open spaces with whiteboards and LCD Monitors — will encourage students to work together. There will be one such space on four of the seven floors of the new campus.

MCC announced on Friday that it has established a partnership with the Regional Transit Service to provide free transportation to MCC students, faculty and staff traveling between MCC's Brighton campus and the new campus.

Route maps and information will be available on the RTS website in August. Members of the MCC community can ride for free by showing the bus driver their MCC identification card. The free service begins on Sept. 5, the first day of classes for the fall.

Classes that had previously been held at MCC's



View of State Street from the seventh floor.

(Photos: CARLOS ORTIZ, @cfortiz_dandc/staff photographer)

Damon City Campus in the Sibley building on East Main Street will be moved to the new site for the September semester, with MCC's main campus continuing to be in Brighton.



Sixth floor hallways at the collaboratory.



Furniture detail on the fifth floor.

Several pre-collegiate and service programs, including Upward Bound, will be held at the new campus as well.

"We will be exploring new programs for the campus," said Frater.

Located at the corner of Morrie Silver Way and State Street, the buildings for the new campus were bought by Monroe County, which is MCC's local sponsor. LaBella Associates was the architect of the renovated buildings.

In renovating the connecting buildings, which now look like one, sections of floors were removed to make room for an open-campus spine — a stairway in the middle of the connected structures that goes up to the third floor.

A cafeteria is on the first floor and on the fourth floor is the Learning Commons, which consists of a library and a center for tutoring

On the sixth floor are four state-of-the-art science laboratories.

And the new campus has a "green roof" of vegetation. The campus applied green building principles to its design and construction.

There will be 525 parking spaces for the new campus.

The county committed \$36 million to the new \$78 million downtown campus, with the state matching that amount. An additional \$6 million comes from grants obtained by MCC and the county, which were matched by the State University of New York.

Finding a new site for a downtown campus was already underway when MCC President Anne Kress took office in 2009.

JGOODMAN@Gannett.com



MCC ready to debut new downtown campus

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ROCHESTER, N.Y. (WROC-TV) - In just eight weeks, many students from Monroe Community College will find themselves reporting to an entirely new campus.

MCC has moved into a massive space that was formerly part of Eastman Kodak's World Headquarters to establish a permanent downtown campus.

Kodak's name may be on the building, but MCC's Downtown Campus will call it home. Executive Dean Dr. Joel Frater says it's been a long process to establish a permanent downtown campus for MCC.

"MCC's always had the goal of acquiring a building it could call its own," said Frater. "This facility afforded us that opportunity."

The college previously leased space in the Sibley building, which is going through its own transformation, but the last two years have been spent redeveloping seven stories of former Kodak buildings into classrooms, labs, and offices.

Frater's hope, he says, is that MCC will be seen in the same light Kodak once was as a pillar in the community.

"To take the notion of Kodak being the image industry, and to build on that legacy, to create a vision for young people is certainly remarkable for us," said Frater.

Taking a tour of the new campus, Frater says many of the floors and room designs are geared towards helping students' learning experience.

"Lots of spaces for collaboration, for interactive learning," said Frater. "It is certainly a student-focused learning environment."

Those students will primarily be taking classes in criminal justice, education, and human services, and sciences. And although the building is not quite the scale of its Brighton campus, Frater says there are new, first-rate amenities such as a bookstore, cafeteria, and fitness center.

"It will be a transformative experience for all who venture into this building," said Frater.

A building that now promises to tie Rochester's past to Rochester's future.

The state and county split most of the funding for the building, which cost about \$78 million in total. The Downtown Campus will serve around 2,000 students by a staff of 250.