

# Groundbreaking launches renovation to RVCC campus



A groundbreaking ceremony was held at River Valley Community College in Claremont on Thursday as work is set to begin on the \$2.9 million renovation project on the school. From left to right: Ross Gittell chancellor of the Community College System in N.H.; State Representative John Cloutier; Dr. Alicia Harvey-Smith, president of RVCC; Allen Damren, college trustee; Harvey Hill, for RVCC president and trustee; Pete Dunnigan, of the MacMillin Construction Company and Alahe Aldo from Lavallee Brensinger Architects. PAUL HOWE PHOTO

**CLAREMONT** — River Valley Community College launched its \$2.9 million renovation of the Claremont campus with a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday.

“This project will significantly improve the teaching and learning environment better supporting the student experience and student success,” said RVCC President Alicia Harvey-Smith. “We are excited to get this renovation underway and look forward to providing students, community partners, faculty and staff a more collegiate and welcoming environment. This is truly an investment in RVCC’s future by design.”

According to Smith, more than 85 percent of the current building will be impacted by the project. The proposed renovations are a result of planning, designing and linking improvements to a changing academic and technological infrastructure.

Included in the project will be new labs and technology for the occupational therapy assistant, physical therapist assistant and respiratory therapy programs. The Learning and Student Success Center will move adjacent to the Puksta Library in order for students to easily access important resources for study, tutoring and testing.

New faculty offices will provide space for student advising, counseling and support sessions and convening space. The addition of several new smart classrooms and increased technology will improve the overall student experience. Included in the redesign will be a new grant laboratory for science research.

A new multi-function café and learning space will replace the current Falcon Room dining area. This will be a place for students, faculty, staff and community groups to gather for events and to socialize. All hallways and common areas will also be remodeled.

The majority of funding for this project was provided by the State of New Hampshire Legislature. The main contractor is The MacMillin Company, LLC, located in Keene, N.H. and the architects are Lavallee/Brensinger from Manchester, N.H. Construction is due to be completed by the end of May 2014.

River Valley Community College offers over 35 associate degrees and certificates in Claremont, Keene and online, and is one of seven colleges in the Community College System of New Hampshire.