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The New Capital Community College In Hartford Is Dedicated

The state Department of Public Works (DPW) joined Governor John G. Rowland and other state and local officials to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for the new Capital Community College in downtown Hartford on September 4, 2002.

The event marked the completion of a key pillar in the plan to revitalize downtown Hartford. The new state-of-the-art community college was built in the former G. Fox Building, a Hartford landmark since 1917.

Public Works initiated the \$60 million project in July 2001 to consolidate the college and create a new, modern home for its 3,200 students and 260 faculty members.

Governor John G. Rowland called the project “the most historic investment in Higher Education in the nation.” Greeting the large crowd at the dedication ceremony, he stated, “Welcome to the newest and most high-tech college in the U.S. I am truly proud of the taxpayers.”

DPW Commissioner T.R. Anson said, “This was one of our most unique and complex projects. It also represents yet another Department of Public Works project delivered on time and on budget.”

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Capital Community College President Ira Rubenzahl commented on the new location saying, “Our proximity to the central business district, with its learning and career resources and opportunities, will support Capital’s goal of helping local residents advance their careers.”

Other local and state officials who participated in the dedication ceremony included Mayor Eddie A. Perez, City of Hartford; State Representative Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, Harford; and R. Bartley Halloran, chairman, Capital City Economic Development Authority.

The construction manager for the project was Gilbane Building Company and the architect was S/L/A/M Collaborative, both of Glastonbury.

The project consisted of renovating 304,000 square feet of the 800,000 square foot building. Forty percent of the 11-story building is utilized by the college and 60 percent will be privately developed retail space. The College has its own new dedicated mechanical and electrical systems. The most exciting new feature is a five-story skylight atrium carved out to brighten the upper floors and enliven the atmosphere.

The project retained much of the classic art deco style of the building while adding the latest in health and science labs, computer labs, art and music studios and video production rooms. The college also features a 16,000 square foot library, full internet access, an auditorium, cafeteria, student study areas, lounges, and administrative and faculty offices.

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The State Department of Public Works celebrates the opening of Capital Community College in the former G. Fox Building in downtown Hartford, Connecticut on Sept. 4, 2002. Left to right are: Mayor Eddie A. Perez, City of Hartford; State Representative Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey, Harford; (background) R. Bartley Halloran, chairman, Capital City Economic Development Authority; Governor John G. Rowland, State of Connecticut; Ira H. Rubenzahl, president, Capital Community College; and Commissioner T.R. Anson, Connecticut Department of Public Works. (DPW photo by Tony Calabrese)