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## North Carolina Research Campus construction continues

By Emily Ford

Kannapolis Citizen

The construction workforce at the North Carolina Research Campus has surpassed 600 workers.

And that number is still climbing.

Construction will peak this spring and summer, said Tom Sanctis, vice president of commercial construction for Castle & Cooke.

The first four buildings at the 350-acre biotech center in downtown Kannapolis are nearing completion.

The Central Energy Plant should come online by early December, Sanctis said. Staff will undergo training there next week.

Interior work on the fourth floor of the Core Lab is under way, as well as construction of a 28,000-square-foot vivarium in the basement to house laboratory animals.

Workers have started installing marble floors and walls in the Core Lab lobby and atrium.

Construction of two buildings for the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University "is going great," Sanctis said.

About 30 people from UNC came this week to tour their building, which is almost enclosed with brick. Windows will arrive in mid-December, and mechanical and electrical work for the UNC laboratories are under way.

The State building is a few months behind the UNC building.

Engineers recently conducted a vibration analysis for the nuclear magnetic resonance imager that will go on the first floor.

By placing gauges and meters in the building for 24 hours while no construction was taking place, they determined that vibrations from nearby trains would not interfere with the imager, Sanctis said.

The UNC building should open in early summer and the State building in late summer, he said.

"Both universities have been very good to work with," he said. "Early on, they knew what they wanted."

Construction has begun on the first of several parking decks.

This one will serve the Core Lab and will not be paid for by the self-financing bonds recently approved by the Kannapolis city council and Cabarrus County commissioners, Sanctis pointed out.

The next building set for construction is the 60,000- square foot Rowan-Cabarrus Community College facility, which will allow RCCC to bring its biotechnology programs to the Research Campus.



Sanctis expects to break ground in January.

Designs plans are complete for greenhouses that will go up about a mile from campus near the Kannapolis Water Treatment facility on Pump Station Road. Construction will begin early next year.

While the greenhouse site measures 100 acres, the actual glass-enclosed area is about 60,000 square feet with room to expand to 120,000 square feet.

David H. Murdock, the California billionaire who owns a home near Kannapolis, is building the \$1.5 billion Research Campus that will focus on health and nutrition.

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