In August, College of the Canyons officials will host a ribbon cutting ceremony to announce the arrival of the Canyon Country campus’ first permanent building, the eagerly anticipated Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC).

Designed to give students a new selection of hands-on learning and training opportunities, the ATEC’s approximately 10,000-square-feet of workshop and laboratory space will provide the space needed to support the type of Career Technical Education (CTE) training that leads directly to employment.

“The Applied Technology Education Center will vastly expand the college’s ability to provide advanced technical training in several emerging career fields,” said Dr. Dena Maloney, Vice President of the Canyon Country campus and Economic Development. “This state-of-the-art facility will continue to evolve as we expand our industry partnerships, and will help the college continue to meet the needs of local industry, while fulfilling the dreams of students who want to enter these high demand career fields.”

Soon after the Canyon Country campus first opened in August 2007, college officials began making plans to construct a facility that would house the college’s lineup of CTE courses and programs, while providing students with new hands-on learning and training opportunities in a variety of cutting edge subject areas.

With that goal in mind, COC officially began construction on the ATEC facility in June 2010, after submitting all planning documentation to the state and installing all necessary underground infrastructure.

By using a tilt-up construction design — in which the building’s walls are poured directly at the jobsite into large concrete panels and subsequently moved into position around the building’s foundation — construction crews were able to make rapid progress on the new facility. By January 2011 the building’s first walls were lifted into place, as several of the college’s administrators looked on in excitement.

“Witnessing the wall raising process was an exciting moment in the history of the campus,” said Dr. Maloney. “Members of our Canyon Country Campus Advisory Group, some of whom helped select the site for the campus back in 2005, were there with us to see the walls go up. It was a thrill to see our dream for this facility take shape that day.”

The new ATEC facility is located on the south side of the Canyon Country campus.

Wall Lift
In January 2011 the ATEC building’s first walls were lifted into place, as several of the college’s administrators looked on in excitement. “Witnessing the wall raising process was an exciting moment in the history of the campus,” said Dr. Maloney.
Country campus in Quad 700, adjacent to the Campus Safety department, on a hillside overlooking the campus’ two main parking areas.

Included in the building’s design are four modular buildings, accompanying modular restrooms, and a permanent, spacious, facility for the college’s automotive technology program, which is currently housed off-campus in the auto shop located at Saugus High School.

Other COC programs slated to move into the ATEC this fall include: plumbing, water systems technology and the college’s new solar technology and renewable energy program.

“The construction of our ATEC facility coincides with ongoing state and nationwide trends in the utilities and power generation industries to increase the use of renewable energies through a variety of wind and solar energy projects spanning all 50 states,” said Kristin Houser, Dean of Career Technical Education at the college. “Along with the increased amount of renewable energy being generated will come an increased demand for a workforce of highly skilled solar technicians.”

To help meet that projected need, a series of recently developed CTE courses designed to prepare students for jobs within the solar power and renewable energy industries, will also be offered at ATEC.

The college’s first solar energy technician certificate program will include 13 units of instruction spread over three courses — Introduction to Energy Technology, Solar Photovoltaics Systems and Solar Thermal Systems — with students typically able to complete the program in two to three semesters.

The first course in the program, Introduction to Energy Technology, will debut at ATEC this fall, with subsequent lab courses in the program scheduled to debut in spring 2012.

For potential students and community members interesting in viewing the new ATEC facility, a special ribbon cutting ceremony, facility tour and technology demonstration will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, at the ATEC entrance.

For more information about the Canyon Country Campus Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC) ribbon cutting ceremony please visit www.canyoncountrycampus.org. To RSVP to attend the event please call (661) 362-3802.