

# OCC site of GM-auto workers skill center

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(O-6)

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

A national center designed to upgrade auto workers' skills will be built next to the new Oakland Technology Park.

General Motors, Oakland Community College and the United Auto Workers this morning announced joint construction of a \$5.5-million UAW-GM Human Resource Center.

To be built this spring on the college's Auburn Hills campus, the 75,000-square-foot facility at I-75 and M-59 will house programs set up for workers under the UAW-GM National Agreement.

A major component is the Joint Skill Development and Training Committee which oversees training activities designed to upgrade skills of U.S. UAW-

GM workers. Set up in 1981 to help laid-off workers, the committee prepares both unemployed and employed workers for future opportunities either within or outside the company.

Other UAW-GM programs address such concerns as substance abuse in the plants, new business opportunities GM can fund to help communities where workers live, social services available to workers and health-care services.

IN A JOINT statement, Donald F. Ephin, UAW vice president and director of the union's GM department, and Alfred S. Warren, vice president in charge of GM's industrial relations staff, said the center represents "another milestone in our progress toward putting people first at GM."

"Our represented employees are a

crucial resource and an asset in the automobile business, and our designation of this building as a human resource center reflects that reality."

The site chosen for the national headquarters is adjacent to Oakland Technology Park, which links high-tech businesses to Oakland Community College and Oakland University. O.U., Schostak Brothers and Co. and Frankel Associates are participating with OCC to develop the 1,800 acres bounded by I-75 on the west, University Drive to the north, OU to the east and M-59 to the south.

While liberal-arts courses are also offered there, OCC's Auburn Hills campus offers many technical courses and is known as the two-year institution's "high tech" campus.

A UAW spokesperson said locating the headquarters in the high-tech park "makes a lot of sense. It's oriented toward the future of the auto industry."

OCC PRESIDENT Robert F. Roelofs said the headquarters is considered a major step in the technology park's development.

He also views the venture as a way

for the college to do more practical training of auto workers. OCC has been working with several Ford and GM plants, training employees both on site and on the college's campuses.

An administrative center, the building will house conferences and seminars but not classes. Workers skills and potential will be assessed at smaller centers in the communities where they live and programs developed for them either in plants or at colleges like OCC.

But OCC expects to be working much more closely with the UAW and GM because of the new relationship.

"Our task has always been to train people in a general way, and companies had to teach them their equipment and management styles," explained Roelofs, who said OCC was one of a half-dozen colleges considered for the construction.

"If we're working closer, we can tailor programs more to their needs."

CONSTRUCTION OF THE UAW-GM Human Resource Center is scheduled to begin by June 1 on five acres north-east of the I-75 and M 59 interchange. Under the joint agreement, GM and

the UAW will share costs of building construction, landscaping and a new roadway providing access from Featherstone Road.

OCC will share the expense of maintaining the property once construction is complete.

The five acres will be leased to GM-UAW, reportedly for \$1 a year for 30 years. At the end of 30 years, the building will be deemed to OCC.

Concerned that the building fit in with the other 20 structures on its Auburn Hills campus, OCC retained a strong role in planning the interior layout. The building will be mainly offices, but the space could be easily converted to classroom space.

Jickling Lyman & Powell, the Birmingham architectural firm which de-

signed the campus's new High Technology Center, has been hired to design the new structure also.

OPERATION OF THE Human Resource Center will be jointly staffed and financed from training funds first negotiated by GM and UAW in 1982 and enhanced in the recently negotiated 1984 agreement.

Under those provisions, GM sets aside 10 cents per hour worked by each UAW-represented employee for such training-related programs.

Workers are being trained in the largest skill areas, but electronics is the largest focus.

A national headquarters for UAW-Ford programs is on the campus of Henry Ford Community College.



Norman O. Stockmeyer  
state L-ard president



Dorothy Beardmore  
new treasurer

## Stockmeyer heads state school board

Norman O. Stockmeyer Sr. has capped nearly 40 years of board of education service at the local, county, university and state levels with the presidency of the state Board of Education.

The eight-member state board Wednesday elected Stockmeyer, a Republican, on a 6-0 vote. One member was absent. Arnette Miller, D-Huntington Woods, abstained.

Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester, was elected to the largely honorary post of treasurer.

Republicans gained a 5-3 advantage on the state Board of Education in the Reagan landslide Nov. 6. Beardmore was elected in that sweep. She had served eight years on the Rochester board and 10 on the Oakland Intermediate board.

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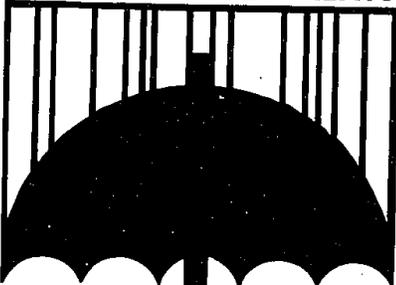
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