



More than 600 reporters attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the striking new Nissan Research and Development Center on Sunrise Drive in Farmington Hills.



Translator Yukihiko Eguchi (left) handles questions put to Nissan President Yutaka Kume from reporters from all over the world.

Nissan has big plans for center

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U.S. suppliers to Nissan officials say.

Also helping to boost Nissan's purchase of U.S. parts next year is the Standard Federal, as yet unnamed, which will no longer be imported but instead will be built at the company's manufacturing operations in Tennessee. Suppliers to this project will include GM Delco, Manville and Breed Automotive.

THE 340,000-square-foot center is expected to employ 500 people actually by the Hills site. 75 percent are American, Gill said.

When Nissan received its 1988 charter to expand its research and development facility, the company began hiring its American staff, Calandro said. Nissan has locations in Ann Arbor, California, Arizona, and Washington, D.C.

However, Nissan only plans to hire "some" new workers to staff the new center, Calandro said after the press conference. The bulk of Nissan employees who have been tem-

porarily housed in Plymouth's industrial park since 1988.

Of the 360 employees who will actually be at the Hills site, 75 percent are American, Gill said.

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The Nissan Technical center is well-positioned to direct our "design-in" system of product development in North America," Kume

said. "This development method assures the exceptional quality of our products and offers the opportunity for the U.S. supplier base to join our team and be competitive on an international level. With the location of an engineering presence in North America, suppliers can more easily become involved in new model development at an early stage."

THE NEW CENTER is physically unique because it does not use standard air-conditioning methods to cool the building. During evening

hours when electricity is less in demand, a chiller charges the ice bank for use during daytime hours.

This system increases the amount of electricity used at night when electricity is less expensive. Air conditioning that is needed at night is provided by other chillers that are not connected to the thermal storage system.

During daytime hours, when electricity is more expensive, a chiller works with the ice bank to provide air-conditioning to the building. The system reduces the amount of electricity used during the day to reduce operating costs. The thermal storage works with other chillers to allow the lowest air-conditioning operating costs possible.

This system, developed by WBDC, a Grand Rapids-based architectural firm, is also used in the Standard Federal Building, Troy, said Douglas Brant, WBDC vice-president.



Artist Dennis Orlowski talks with retired Beechview teachers (from left) Dorothy Harrington, Marian Johnson and Amy Kleinschmit about his recently completed mural in the

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Beechview mural honors 3 who taught long, well

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Where can you find a colorful balloon, children of various ethnic backgrounds, and a bit of outer space and the ocean in all one place?

Just look into the lobby of Beechview Elementary School, where artist Dennis Orlowski recently completed an 8-foot square mural, blending ecology and multicultural themes into a colorful wall design.

In a special ceremony last week,

the mural was dedicated to Amy Kleinschmit, Dorothy Harrington and Marian Johnson, three longtime Farmington Public Schools teachers who retired from Beechview in June.

Principal Wallace Prince announced the dedication plans at an assembly last spring.

"It surprised us all, and we

thought it was quite an honor," Johnson said.

Johnson worked in the district for 30 years teaching early elementary children. Kleinschmit, for 27 years teaching kindergarten and fifth grade and Harrington for 33 years as an elementary physical education teacher.

PRINCE SAID the school decided

on a mural so the school's ecology

The artist, Dennis Orlowski, is an art teacher at Detroit's Cooley High School. He studied fresco painting in Mexico City and now specializes in mural art.

theme from last year and all the multicultural aspects of the school could be blended together. Also, he said, the project gave the lobby area a color and a sense of life.

Students and staff saw slides of the mural in progress, and classes came to the lobby last week to visit and discuss the latest addition to the school, which is located north of 11 Mile between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads.

Orlowski took about one month to design and complete the Beechview mural project.

He started with a sketch — which was approved by Prince and a school committee — then drew the mural lifesize, sketched the figures into the sketch and then had them making corrections as he went.

"You can't rush something like this," he said. "If you rush it, you cheapen it."