



# West Valley VIEW

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## College taking on \$10 million project Avondale campus expanding classroom space

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**MARIPOSA HALL** will be built on the west side of the Estrella Mountain Community College campus in Avondale. The new classrooms should open in January 2010.

about 40,000 students annually.

Estrella Mountain Community College is preparing to spread its wings.

The 16-year-old college campus is growing with the construction of Mariposa Hall.

Ground was broken for Mariposa, which means butterfly in Spanish, in December 2008. The 26,000-square-foot building is scheduled to open in a year.

"What we really need are classrooms," said Randy Mauldin, director of college facilities, planning and development.

The new building will include nine classrooms, three labs, about nine faculty offices and study rooms.

"Two of the labs are dedicated for the nursing program. They need specialized space. The third will be a multipurpose lab," Mauldin said.

The college serves about 13,000 students each year. At build-out, it is expected to educate

"Growth has been a key element in our commitment to provide learning opportunities that benefit our students and community," said Ernest Lara, president of Estrella Mountain Community College. "Through the 2004 voter-approved bond initiative, development of Mariposa Hall provides expanded classroom space and allows more students the opportunity to achieve their short- and long-term goals. When our students are successful, our community is stronger."

The new building will likely be completed at the end of 2009, however, additional time for LEED certification as a "green" facility will hold up the opening until January 2010.

"We're hoping to get LEED certification," said Mauldin, who's been with the college since it opened. "This is the first time we've gone for the certification, although we've always tried to be environmentally conscious."

Mauldin sat in on a committee that discussed the naming of the campus' buildings.

"We'd come up with a series of names for all of our buildings years ago. The first ones are related to the mountains in the area. Then this one just seemed to fit in with the region," Mauldin said.

Mariposa Hall is being built on the west end of the campus. With it will come a new loop road that will go behind the college, connecting the Dysart and Thomas entrances.

The cost of the project, including the classroom building and road, will reach about \$10.1 million.

"It will also include some food service because it's on the outskirts of campus," Mauldin said. "It will have something so you don't have to go far for something to eat."

Mariposa is not the final phase of the community college. It still has room to grow on the north side of the campus, and land is owned for a satellite location in Buckeye.

"We're working on the conceptual application for the expansion of Estrella Hall to add about 20 more classrooms to that building," Mauldin said.

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