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Behrend begins bright future

"This facility is transforming the learning environment for our students, strengthening the research capabilities of faculty and students, supporting important industry-related research and entrepreneurship, and enhancing the college's ability to recruit talented students and the highest caliber faculty."

-- Penn State Behrend Chancellor Jack Burke

on the new Research and Economic

Development Center

What Jack Burke is talking about is Penn State Behrend's future. That is, expanding this bustling and ever-evolving higher education institution into something unique and groundbreaking. This is what Behrend's new Research and Economic Development Center symbolizes for this campus's vast potential today at the building's dedication ceremony.

It's an impressive goal and a striking building. The center is a \$30 million addition to Behrend that brings the college's engineering and business schools under one roof. That, by itself, is new and creative, but the center serves a greater objective: Burke sees unlimited possibilities for Behrend underscored by the promise this facility represents.

Let's do the numbers:

- At 160,000 square feet, the Research and Economic Development Center is largest building on the Behrend campus;
- It is the largest campus building outside the main University Park campus;
- It is also the largest academic building in Erie County.

What this offers eager students of the Sam and Irene Black School of Business and the School of Engineering is formidable.

The center features 28 engineering labs, 11 computer labs and computer classrooms, and 17 classrooms, plus additional office space and conference rooms.

(And if you understand college students and college instructors, you will understand the value in a cafe that sells doughnuts, bagels, sandwiches, coffee and soft drinks).

But all these features, as impressive and obviously necessary for an institution with ambitions and hopes, helps promote a Behrend mission.

This is a big day for Behrend and the region.

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