

Last Edition
August 25, 2026

CVES New CTE Center Construction Update



It Took a Village: The New CV-TEC CTE Center in Plattsburgh Opens its Doors

For more than a year, the site off in Plattsburgh has been a landscape of steel beams, cranes, and hard hats. Beginning September 3rd, it will be something else entirely: a learning hub. With construction now complete, we are proud to celebrate a significant achievement in our agency's history — the opening of the new CV-TEC CTE Center in Plattsburgh.

This final construction update closes out a story we've been telling since ground was first broken in March 2025. What follows in this issue is a visual journey through the building — but before you turn the page, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on what it truly took to get here, and what it means for the students and communities we serve.

A Building Built for the Future

The new CV-TEC CTE Center in Plattsburgh sits on 17 acres and includes a 155,000-square-foot main structure alongside a 12,000-square-foot accessory building. Inside, 28 educational spaces have been purpose-built to prepare students for the careers of tomorrow. A new commissary kitchen will also expand our ability to serve locally sourced, made-from-scratch meals to children across the region — extending our mission of care well beyond the classroom.

The Road to September 3rd

- December 2024 — SED and Town of Plattsburgh permits received
- March 2025 — Construction begins
- July 2026 — Temporary Certificate of Occupancy received
- August 2026 — Equipment and staff move in, Certificate of Occupancy received
- September 3, 2026 — Doors open for students

Behind each of those milestones was a season of problem-solving, coordination, and sheer determination. This summer alone, our staff have spent countless hours setting up classrooms and workspaces so that everything will be ready the moment students walk through the door.

A Village of Partners

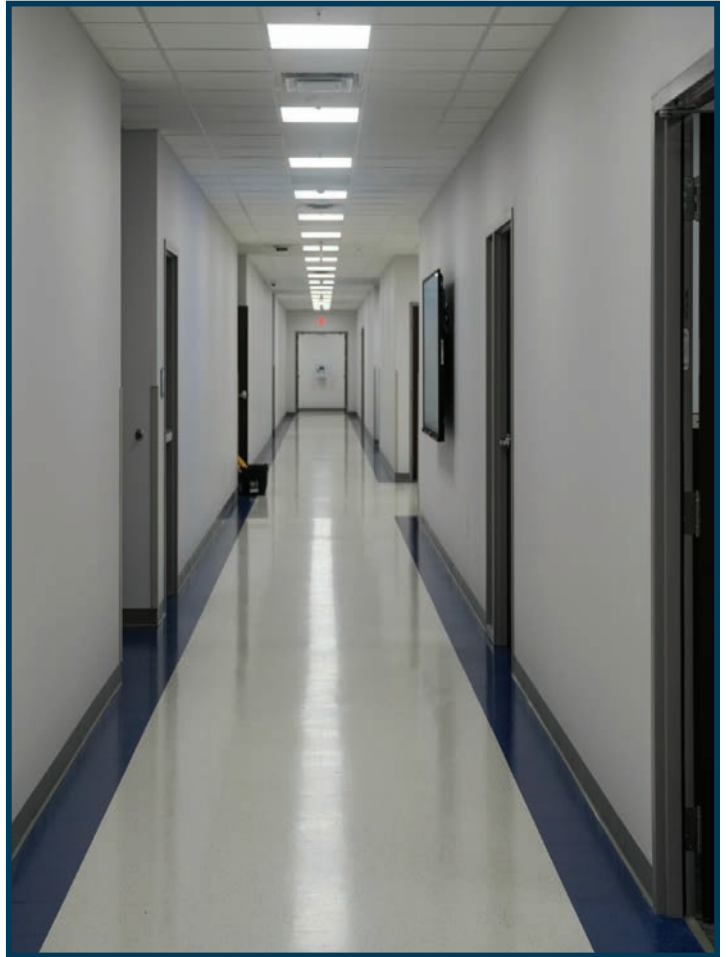
We were fortunate to work with an exceptional team throughout this project. BBL served as our builder, drawing on hundreds of subcontractors who each brought their own skill and craftsmanship to this building. WCGS served as our architects, translating our vision into a design worthy of our students. Columbia Development served as our developer, guiding the project from concept to completion. All three partners were outstanding to work with, and this building stands as a testament to their expertise.

Just as vital were the people inside our own organization who made sure this project — and everything connected to it — kept moving forward. Our Operations and Maintenance team, under the leadership of Jayson Blondo and Jeff Coon, has worked tirelessly to prepare the physical space and keep everything on track. Our IT team, led by Matt Palkovic and Haley Blaise, has built the technological backbone that will power learning in this building for decades to come. And team CV-TEC, under the leadership of Michele Friedman, has been the heart of this project from day one — reimagining programs, planning spaces, and preparing to welcome students into a facility built specifically for their success.

Thousands of Hands, One Goal

The truth is, no list of names could ever fully capture everyone who contributed to this achievement. It has taken the time, effort, love, and collaboration of thousands of individuals — tradespeople, educators, support staff, families, and community members — all working toward one shared goal: shaping the future of education in the North Country and creating more opportunity for our students. "This project has asked thousands of people to go above and beyond their normal job duties, and without exception, everyone has stepped up without hesitation," said CVES Deputy Superintendent, Eric Bell. "That is what has made this possible. It truly has taken a village." And on September 3rd, that village will open its doors to the students it was built for — students who will walk through this building not knowing all that it took to create it, but who will feel, every single day, what it means to learn in a space built with them in mind. Thank you to everyone who made this moment possible.

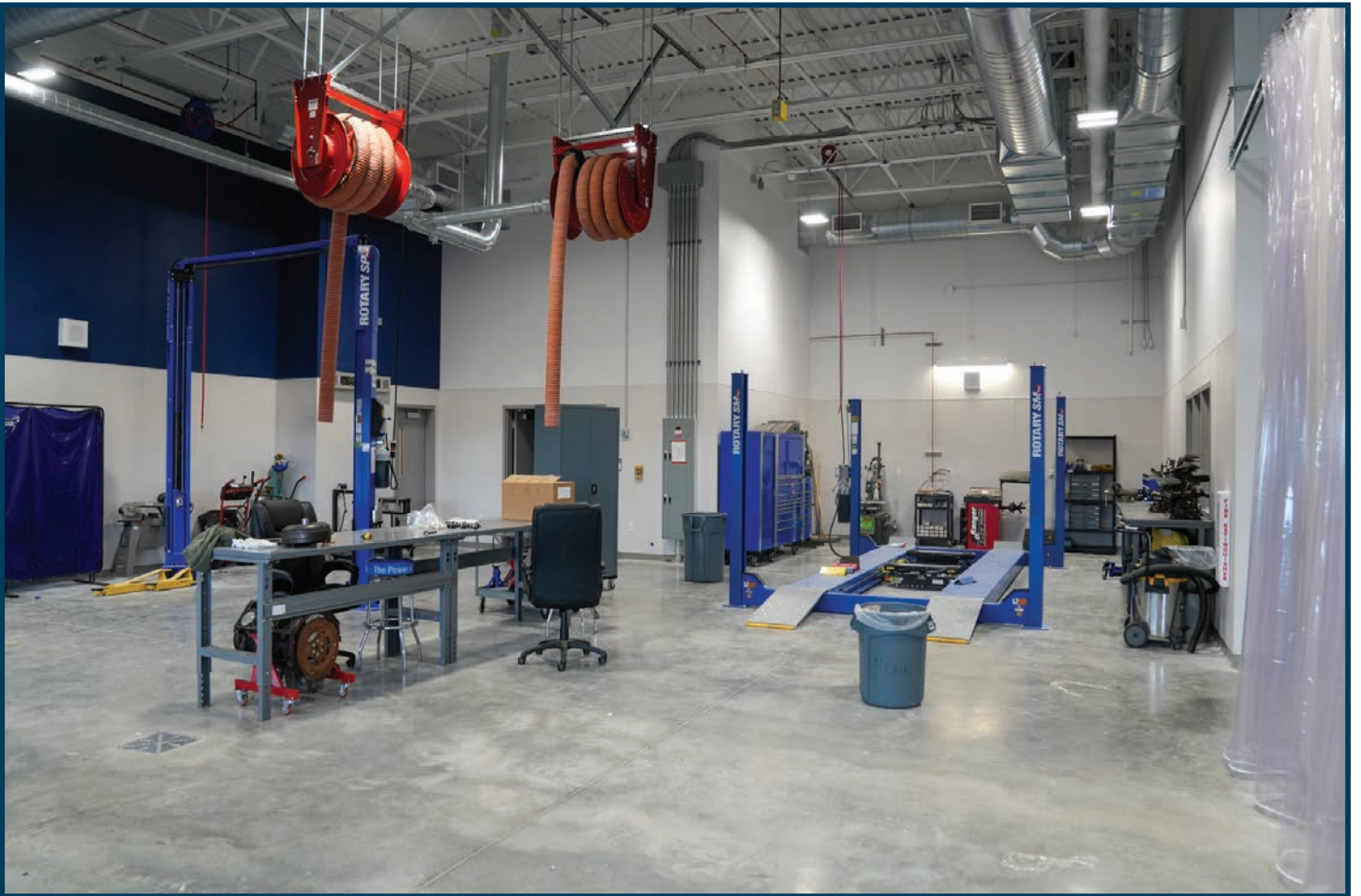


























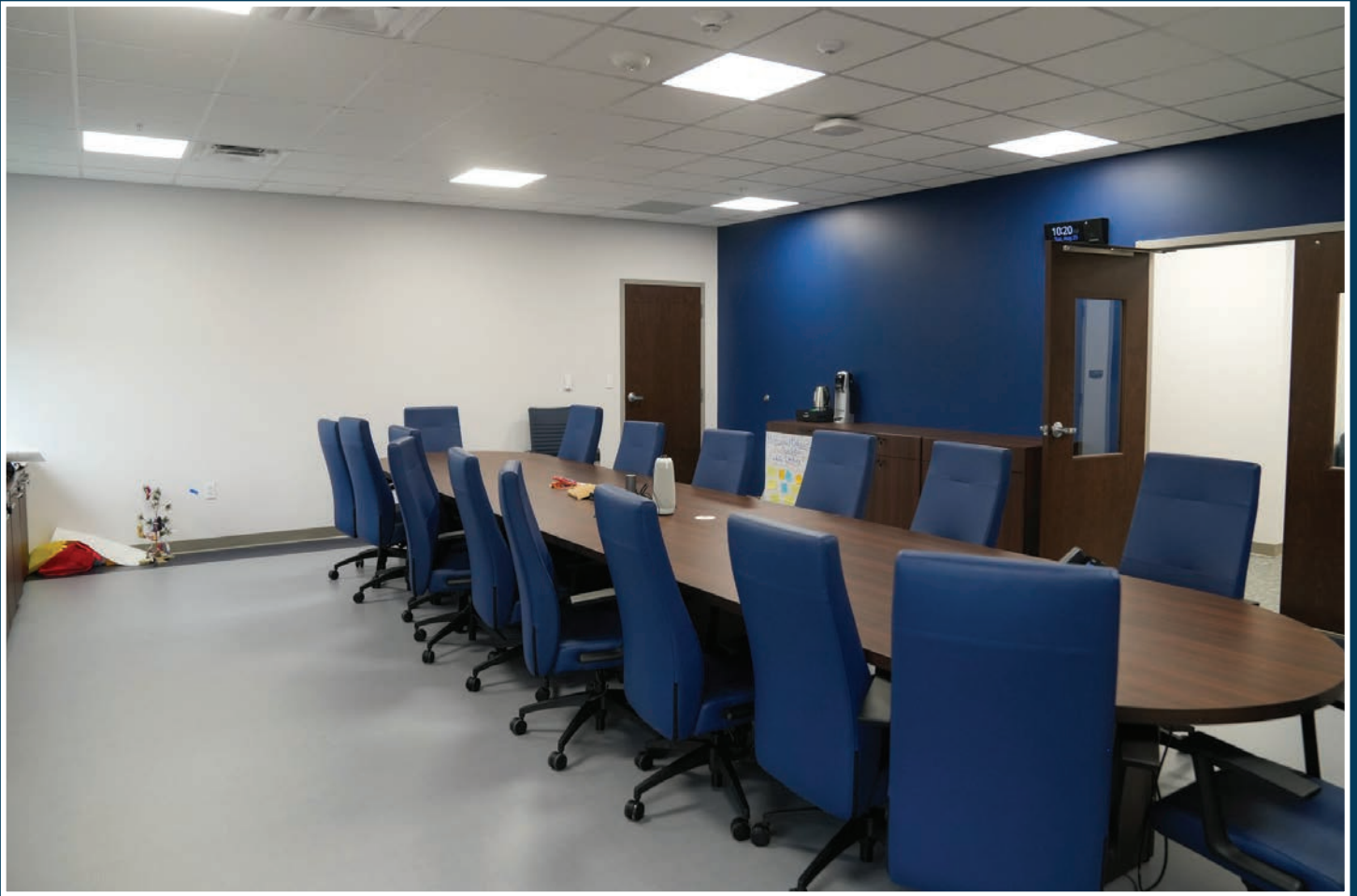




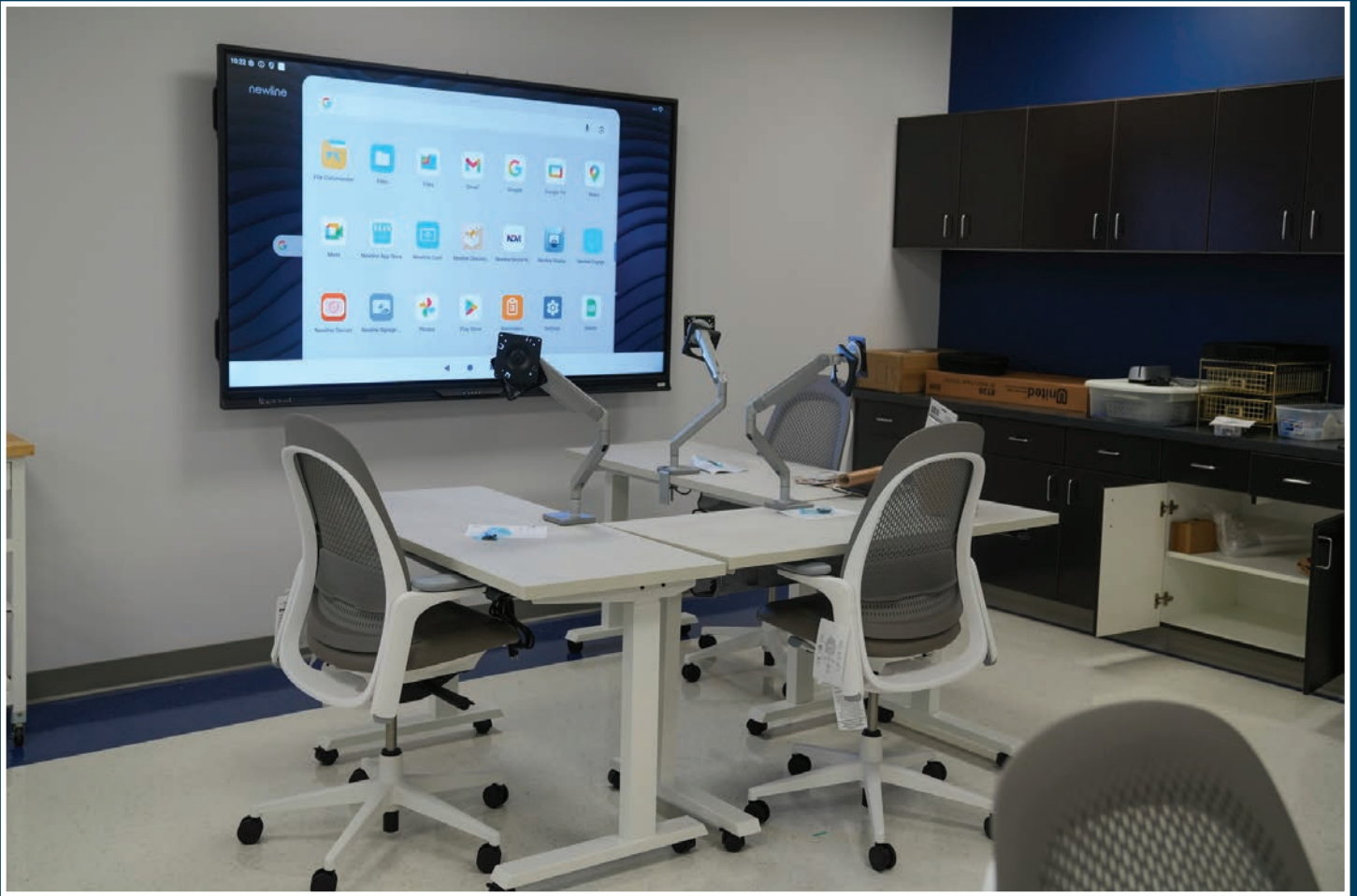








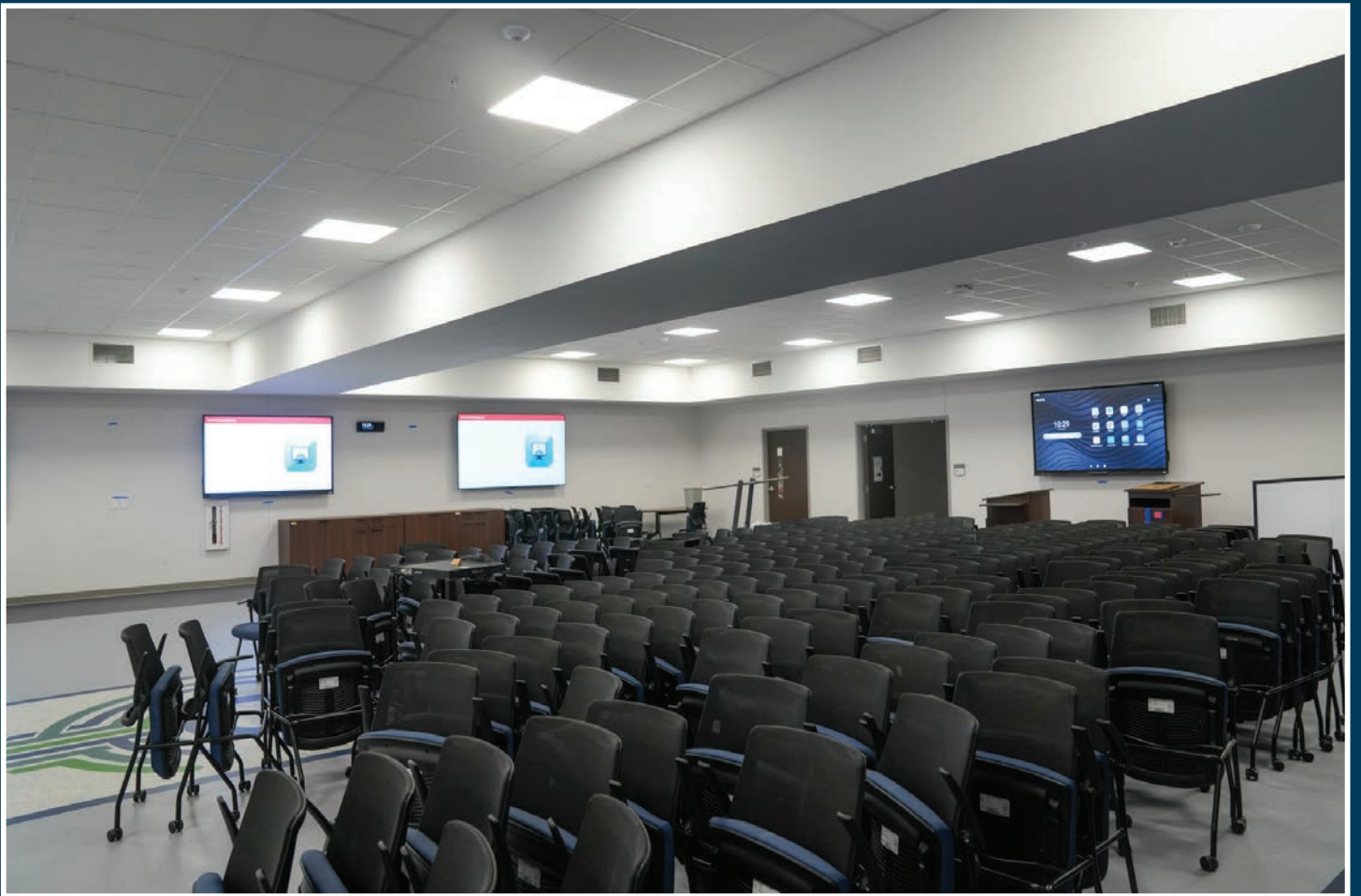






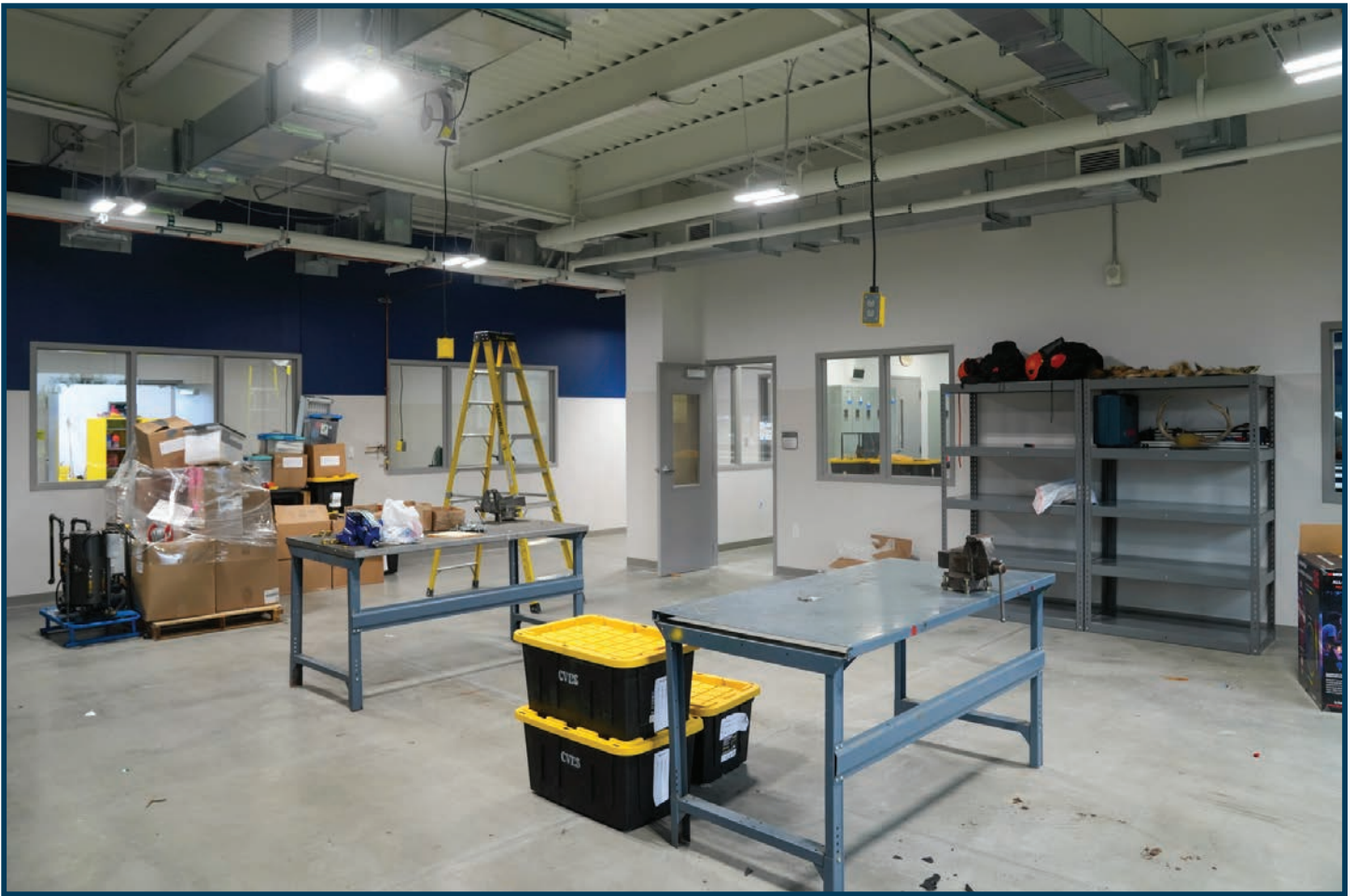


















What Began Here...

What began was just not a building,
It was a blueprint.
Lines sketched across open land,
Measurements, mathematics, earth turned over
That carved possibility from soil....

Steel climbed first,
Bones of ambition
Concrete settled deep into the ground
Steady and certain
Walls rose with a purpose,
Wired for innovation
These bones were built to last...

Floors waited in silence
Empty labs hummed with potential
Hallways ready for tired hands
learning honest work.....

This place was never meant
to be only classrooms
It was meant to become
A launching point, a proving ground
A place where futures are built
With both hands....

But even then
With all its steel and structure
All its equipment and design
It was only a building
A shell waiting for more.....

Then the people came
Students carrying uncertainty
And leaving with confidence.
Teachers passing down knowledge
Earned through years of grit.
Laughter echoing through bays
The sharp crack of a welding spark
The scent of sawdust, machine oil, ovens baking
The quiet pride of realizations happening
for the very first time...

That is when the building changed
Because a school
Is not defined by concrete and tools,
But by the people
Who transform skill into purpose....

The land gave it foundation
The steel gave it strength
The walls gave it shape....

But the students,
The instructors,
The dreamers and the builders...
Gave it a soul.