

[ENMU-R opens health center](#)

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Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell opened its new Health Science Center on Tuesday. “This was a vision in 1999,” Jane Batson, dean of ENMU-R division of health, said. “It was on the horizon (to build this facility) on a statewide dental plan as well as here (in Roswell) years before that. It has been a couple of years in the making — to get it all put together.”

The 16,720-square-foot facility, at 75 University Blvd., features an anatomy lab, auditorium, community pharmacy, 11 dental operatories and smart-classrooms equipped with state of the art machinery for health center programs. According to Batson, the facility will allow programs to admit more students because of classroom sizes and its auditorium, which can hold 65 students.

Suzan Golden, ENMU-R nursing program director, said that smart-classrooms are outfitted with technology that will enable students to have cyber classes with professors at other universities. UNM’s Novitski Hall will broadcast dental hygiene classes to ENMU-R students. “We get to have classes taught by individuals at other universities,” Batson said.

“The University of New Mexico dental hygiene program is providing instruction for us. When we can’t recruit faculty, we’re able to partner to get some.” Construction for the health center began in the fall of 2008 and building occupancy started on Nov. 8. “(The facility) gives us more room,” Batson said. “It gives us the opportunity to do dental hygiene education. It gives us the opportunity to link more with the world so that we can get more instruction.” Students in dental hygiene programs will provide on-site cleanings, sealants and other services for members of the community for a small fee.

“People can come who are lowincome,” Baston said. “The cost is very reasonable — \$10 for a cleaning, and it gives our students an opportunity to give back to the community as well.” Funding for the Health Science Center came through a \$117.9 million New Mexico general obligation bond for education, which was voted on during Nov. 7, 2006, elections. ENMU-R received \$5.8 million from the bond.

“When (voters) approve something like this, they’re not only improving education for this particular site, but for a number of other sites and allow partnerships that will bring education in and provide service to the community,” Batson said. About 90 members of the community were in attendance at the ceremony emceed by Dr. John Madden, ENMU-R president. Speakers included Baston, Eloise Blake, ENMU-R community college board member, state Sen. Tim Jennings, District 32, former state Rep. Pauline Ponce, District 58 and Diane Ventura, congressional staffer for U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman.

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