

Aviation center at Miramar College getting makeover

By Daily Transcript staff report

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San Diego Miramar College broke ground Friday on a modernization and expansion project to restore the school's aviation center.

The 40-year-old facility will undergo retrofitting to improve existing classrooms and lab spaces, and add new classrooms totaling 15,300 square feet.

The \$10.2 million project, expected to be completed in the fall of 2012, will provide more room and improved technology, according to the college.

The project designed by **Joseph Wong Design Associates** calls for the preservation and restoration of the arched wooden beams and use of recycled materials.

Legacy Building Service is leading the project, with **TMAD Taylor & Gaines**, the **Engineering Partners** and **DEC Engineers** providing engineering duties.

The building improvements are being performed to achieve LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. This will be the 10th project at Miramar College that has been either built or planned to reach LEED certification.

This project is funded by propositions S and N, \$1.55 billion construction bond measures passed by San Diego voters in 2002 and 2006, to improve and build new classrooms and facilities at all of the San Diego Community College District campuses. **Gafcon Inc.** is the program manager for all of the Proposition N projects.

The history of the aviation center dates back to fall 1971 when San Diego Miramar College expanded its mission from exclusively providing public safety training to serving the aviation industry.

Miramar College's aviation maintenance technology program -- approved by the Federal Aviation Administration - - would become the primary supplier of trained technicians for the next 15 years for San Diego-based Pacific Southwest Airlines.

In 1991, the aviation ground school and operations program moved from San Diego Mesa College to San Diego Miramar College, enabling Miramar to serve the entire aviation industry.