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Community college set to renovate old building

Groundbreaking to mark start of work

BY MICHAEL PUFFER
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Contractors have nearly finished stripping down the oldest building on Naugatuck Valley Community College's campus in preparation for a \$44 million renovation.

The project is well underway, but officials have scheduled an April 17 groundbreaking to celebrate the launch of work on Founders Hall, now that the snows have melted.

NVCC President Daisy Cocco De Filippis said she's grateful for the progress at a time when state budgets are tight. She credits Gov. Daniel P. Malloy for recognizing the need, the support of local lawmakers and smart planning by college staff.

"That makes for perfect outcomes," De Filippis said. "I couldn't be happier."

Malloy, lawmakers, Mayor Neil M. O'Leary and other dignitaries will join De Filippis in the parking lot next to Founders Hall on April 17. The general public is invited as well for the ceremony beginning at 2 p.m.

Founders Hall was the original home of Waterbury State Technical College. It had hosted nursing and health



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A section of Founder's Hall at Naugatuck Valley Community College is partially renovated on Friday. The college will be holding a groundbreaking for a renovation project of Founder's Hall.

programs for NVCC and Western Connecticut State University. These have since been crammed into another campus building, complicating scheduling of classes.

Planners expect work to wrap up in summer 2017, resulting in 85,000 square feet of learning space and new offices, computer labs and study areas.

Workers have so far gutted sections of the old building, leaving behind little more than the building's skeleton.

Other areas were demolished. One section, an annex, was so heavily polluted with PCBs that it has been fenced off from the rest of the project. College officials are hoping to secure funding to knock it flat soon.

James Troup, provost and senior dean of administration, said work is ahead of schedule. Demolition was scheduled to begin in April but started in December.

"From there we start with actual construction," Troup said.

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New role for college building



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Officials held a ceremony at Technology Hall for this \$44 million renovation of Founders Hall at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury on Friday. The building was part of the old Waterbury State Technical College. The new building will serve the school's health-related programs.