

VVC unveils new Prem Reddy science building

By Charity Lindsey
Staff Writer

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VICTORVILLE — A 29,000-square-foot structure at Victor Valley College now bears the name of the college's largest donor in its 55-year history.

College officials and regional dignitaries gathered Friday morning for the dedication ceremony of the newly completed Dr. Prem Reddy Health and Sciences building along with local students and project and construction partners.

A longtime Victor Valley Resident and CEO of Prime Healthcare Services, Reddy helped fund the project through a \$2 million donation. The project, completed by Balfour Beatty Construction, Little Diversified Architectural Consulting and many small business partners and subcontractors from the community, cost a total of \$14.4 million to complete, funded mainly through Measure JJ Bonds.

"Today's event expresses the gratitude to Dr. Prem Reddy who helped launch this project," VVC Superintendent/President said in introduction. "It's also symbolic of the many opportunities that will benefit students since the project's completion."

Reddy said that as a man who grew up in a poor village of India without the comforts of electricity or potable water, he was the first of his generation to even go to elementary school.

"Education had been such an important factor in my life," Reddy said, "to be able to give it and sow it to young aspiring students dedicated to caring for fellow humans, there's nothing more gratifying."

Layne Arthur, vice president of Balfour Beatty, said the team constructing the building worked well together and were able to complete the project in time for the start of school, which was one of the college's goals. With 66,096.5 total hours of work, the project didn't go a penny over budget, Arthur said.

Along with a plaque bearing the official seal of a VVC nursing student's uniform, Reddy received certifications of appreciation from regional dignitaries, including Assemblyman Jay Obernolte and San Bernardino County 1st District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, presented by their respective representatives.

Also in attendance was Barstow Community College Superintendent/President Dr. Deborah DiThomas, along with several local high school district administrators, some of whom brought along high school students who anticipate going into health careers and attending VVC.

Former Foundation Board President Don Brown led the unveiling ceremony, counting down with attendees to the moment that a few of the nursing students pulled off a sheet from above the revolving door, revealing the big silver letters that read the building's name. Reddy cut the official ribbon shortly after.

Located adjacent to and on the west side of the existing Science Building 31, the new facility supports many science programs and will be especially important to the nursing program by incorporating labs especially dedicated to simulation, fundamentals, chemistry, life and physical science and anatomy. The building also features a faculty suite, dean's office and both indoor and outdoor student study spaces.

The building will be open for student use as of Monday for the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester.

Charity Lindsey may be contacted at 760-951-6231 or clindsey@vvdailypress.com. Follow her on twitter @DP_Charity