

Cerritos College debuts new automotive building

By Kevin Butler, Staff Writer

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Cerritos Community College held the grand opening of the Automotive Partners Building on campus Friday morning. (Brittany Murray / Press Telegram)

Photo Gallery

LONG BEACH - Cerritos College on Friday debuted its Automotive Partners Building, which will support a new program training students to obtain marketing and management careers in the auto industry.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the \$5.1 million structure, which houses an exhibit space, classrooms, offices and video-equipped conference rooms.

College and auto industry officials said that the building will be used to prepare students for management and marketing jobs in auto dealerships.

"This will allow Cerritos College to continue to educate tomorrow's workforce," said Cerritos College Superintendent-President Linda Lacy.

The educational program is badly needed, said Randy Sopp, owner of Sopp Chevrolet.

"We have to train new people," he said.

The building was supported partly through donations from the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association, the Conant Auto Retail Group and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. Bond funds were also used.

Cerritos College has partnered with Michigan-based Northwood University to offer a program allowing students to obtain a bachelor's degree in auto marketing or management.

Students, who can earn credits toward the university degree at Cerritos College, will take Northwood classes in the

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In addition, Cerritos College students seeking certificates and associate's degrees in auto-related programs will take classes in the new building, which also hosts offices of Northwood and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association.

The building, which will offer a mock showroom for students to use, also will be used by dealerships for employee training.

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