

BUILDING THE FUTURE

CREATIVITY – COMMUNITY – COMMERCE

Do you hear it?

That buzzing sound.

It's coming from the west side of campus. It started with a ground-breaking ceremony last year in February and has been growing ever since. It's the buzz surrounding the new Regional Center for Arts and Humanities.

No one is more in tune with the buzz than Karen Coy-Romano, interim vice chancellor for university relations and advancement. Coy-Romano joined UW-Parkside as a consultant on November 1 and was appointed interim vice chancellor on March 1. (see story opposite page). Her responsibilities include the immense task of raising the resources needed so the Regional Center for Arts and Humanities achieves its full potential.

"We anticipate the building will be complete by the start of the semester in September," Coy-Romano said. "What's missing—what will be critical to the students, to faculty and to the community anticipating these wonderful facilities—is the fact that we do not have the necessary dollars for all of the equipment."



Equipment needs total about \$3.5 million. "When you talk music, you're talking about musical instruments, music stands and chairs," Coy Romano said. "We need computer software for the digital design technology classes. We don't necessarily have those resources in the construction budget."

Campus construction projects generally create a buzz among the university's faculty, staff and students. The Regional Center for Arts and Humanities buzz is just as loud in the communities surrounding the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The mayors of both Kenosha and Racine, along with leaders of business

and educational organizations, are just a few of the community members who have expressed their enthusiasm and support for the project on the Regional Center for Arts and Humanities webpage, www.uwp.edu Keyword *Arts and Humanities*. And given the programs that will take place in the new facility, it truly is a community project. "We included programs that are important to the community," Coy-Romano said. We've added programs within Arts Alive into the campaign so they can be sustained on a permanent basis."

Coy-Romano is pleased with the support, and the buzz, for the campaign thus far. "Now is an important time for interested individuals to step forward. We need to maintain the momentum," she said. "This is a wonderful way for alumni, the community and businesses to invest in the fine arts and humanities.

"Investing in education means that we can prepare students for the emerging careers as part of the creative economy—locally, regionally and nationally."

