Extreme makeover: Portage campus to receive $1 million renovation
Construction project includes new video conferencing room, science labs, computer center

(PORTAGE, Wis.) Feb. 13, 2012 – Work is slated to begin next month on a $952,000 construction project at Madison Area Technical College’s Portage campus. And, when it’s completed this summer, students will benefit from a new video conferencing room, two additional science labs and a new lounge and computer area.

The project, which includes a 2,200 square foot addition, was part of the Madison College building referendum that was approved by nearly 60 percent of voters in 2010.

“A highly skilled workforce is the foundation of a robust economy,” says Madison College President Bettsey Barhorst. “Currently, the science and technology fields have twice as many openings than workers to fill them. This expansion will enable us to increase the number of students enrolled here and give them the advanced tools and training they need to enter the job market work-ready and real-world smart.”

Among these advanced, digital age learning tools is a second TelePresence video conferencing room at the Portage campus. TelePresence allows the College to reach students in different locations as if they’re in the same classroom. Madison College is the first college in the world to use this innovative technology for educational purposes.

The building project also includes 3,400 square feet of renovations, which will provide the College with new offices, restrooms and a conference room.

Among the companies involved in the project are Portage-based Electric One and Portage Glass and Mirror.

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Madison Area Technical College serves approximately 40,000 learners annually, providing “real world smart” education through a comprehensive curriculum of technical, liberal arts and sciences, adult basic education and continuing education. The College also offers customized training for employers.

Editor’s note: TelePresence is a Cisco-branded video conferencing system.