

TO BE PROVIDED ITEMS

Rend Lake College
Campus Facilities Master Plan
July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031

Contents:

- Message from the President
- Purpose
- What We Believe
- Brief History of Rend Lake College
- Communities We Serve
- Our Process – How We Gathered Data
- Our Results – What We Found
- Our Future – How We Grow
- Protection, Health, and Safety – Keeping Students, Faculty, Staff, and Community Safe and Healthy
- Our Plan – How We Use What We Have Learned

Message from the President

A challenge of our time is keeping up with the pace of change, and this is just as true at Rend Lake College. A changing job market, new technologies, the emergence of artificial intelligence and many other factors will shape what our community asks of us in the coming years.

The Rend Lake College Facilities & Master Plan is a tool which will help guide us along our journey. This document features some interesting history about how your community college started and grew, as well as discussion of our projected needs for new construction, renovations, and maintenance. We gathered feedback from the community, employees and students, presented in the following pages, to help set our course.

As of this writing, we are working with the state on the construction of a new Allied Health Building, which will house Nursing and other related programs. This project has been part of our Resource Allocation Management Plan for several years. Another near-future project is a partial remodel of the Administration Building to create a more student-friendly Welcome Center. Other potential projects found to be priorities in long-term planning efforts include an addition to the Applied Science Center and the construction of a new Advanced Technology Center.

This roadmap will help guide us as we continue to move forward. Just as change remains constant, this Master Plan may also change based on the needs of our students and community. As your community college, we always welcome your input!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Ragland
RLC President

PURPOSE

The purpose of the District Site and Construction Master Plan is to provide direction in the growth of the college's built environment. The plan shall serve as the guideline for acquiring new sites and facilities and for the construction of new facilities on the existing Rend Lake College campuses. Although this plan is not intended to be used for the literal specification of all parameters of a project, it shall be used to provide direction in the future funding of projects and prioritization of campus improvements.

This plan shall be updated accordingly or as the project needs for the College are revised.

As this is only a plan, the College reserves the right to modify the plan at any time.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Mission Statement – Rend Lake College provides accessible, high-quality educational opportunities which empower a diverse student population to achieve their goals and contribute to their communities. We are committed to our students' success in achieving their academic and career goals and to meeting the workforce training needs of our community. With Rend Lake College, student journeys start here.

Value Statement – In serving our students and community, we are student-focused, authentic, and resourceful.

Who We Are – Institutional history defines the College from the perspective of organization and assets; however, the people who operate within the college systems and manage those assets are the primary element for successful education. We believe all employees, regardless of their job description, are part of each student's education. Administrative, community outreach, student service, and physical plant personnel all support the student learning process. Our instructors are primary points of contact with the Rend Lake College educational experience. These educators are generally organized into four divisions: Allied Health; Applied Science & Technology; Community & Corporate Education; Liberal Arts; and Math & Sciences. Whether in a supporting role or as a direct point of contact, each college employee draws upon professional expertise and academic accomplishment to promote the success of every student.

BRIEF HISTORY OF REND LAKE COLLEGE

Rend Lake College was founded in 1955 as Mt. Vernon Community College and officially became Rend Lake College when it was organized December 20, 1966, under the Illinois Junior College Act. Mt. Vernon Community College initially was approved by an overwhelming 25-to-1 vote and was under the supervision of the local high school board, with the boundaries the same as those of High School District No. 201. The purpose of this two-year college was to provide postsecondary educational experiences, primarily university-parallel curricula, for the graduates of Mt. Vernon Township High School. Faculty and facilities were provided by the high school.

Rend Lake College became a reality shortly after the announcement of the Master Plan for Higher Education in Illinois. Dramatic changes in educational purpose and curricula accompanied the name change. Voters of the eight-county district approved the establishment of Rend Lake College by a nearly 8-to-1 margin on October 22, 1966. A new governing board was elected from the district in December of the same year. On July 1, 1967, Rend Lake College assumed the assets, liabilities, and responsibilities of Mt. Vernon Community College.

The purpose of the new college was to provide university-parallel, occupational, and general and adult education for the citizens of the new district. District No. 521 includes the majority of Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton, and Perry counties, parts of Wayne and White counties, and even reaches into Washington and Williamson counties.

In its early stages, Rend Lake College was located on the campus of Mt. Vernon Township High School. The Board of Trustees later selected a 350-acre site near Ina and employed architects to begin planning a new campus, located between Interstate 57 and Rend Lake.

On November 18, 1967, voters approved a bond issue of \$3.1 million, which represented the local share of the \$9.5 million total. The Illinois Community College Board also allocated \$2.23 million for construction of the initial phase.

Phase I – This consisted of five buildings: Academic, Science, Gymnasium, South Oasis, and Maintenance. Groundbreaking ceremonies for Phase I were held on March 27, 1969. The buildings constructed as part of Phase I were ready for occupancy by August 1970 with the start of classes for the fall term. Several programs such as Agriculture, Automotive, Cosmetology, and Practical Nursing were still housed off-site in various facilities within the local community.

Phase II and III – The Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Capital Development Board approved combining construction of the buildings identified within Phases II and III. Construction of five more buildings began in 1971. The Administration Building and the Vocational Building were finished in September 1973. The North Oasis, Student Center, and the Learning Resource Center were completed by 1975. Rend Lake College was the first community college in the state to complete its entire facilities master plan.

The College has continued to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our students and the community. The following is a chronological list of the major renovations which have occurred on campus to date:

- 1974 – Mining Technology Building was erected. Three expansions of this facility later occurred along with the construction of a new Maintenance Building.
- 1989 – A new automotive wing was added to the Vocational Building and the Technology Building was renovated.
- 1998 – The Children’s Center, funded by the Foundation, opened to serve the child care needs of Rend Lake College students and staff as well as serve the educational laboratory needs of the Early Childhood Education program.
- 2000 – A major remodeling of the Administration Building took place. The size of the building almost doubled in size to serve as an “Intake Center” which centralized almost all of the Student Service functions in one building.

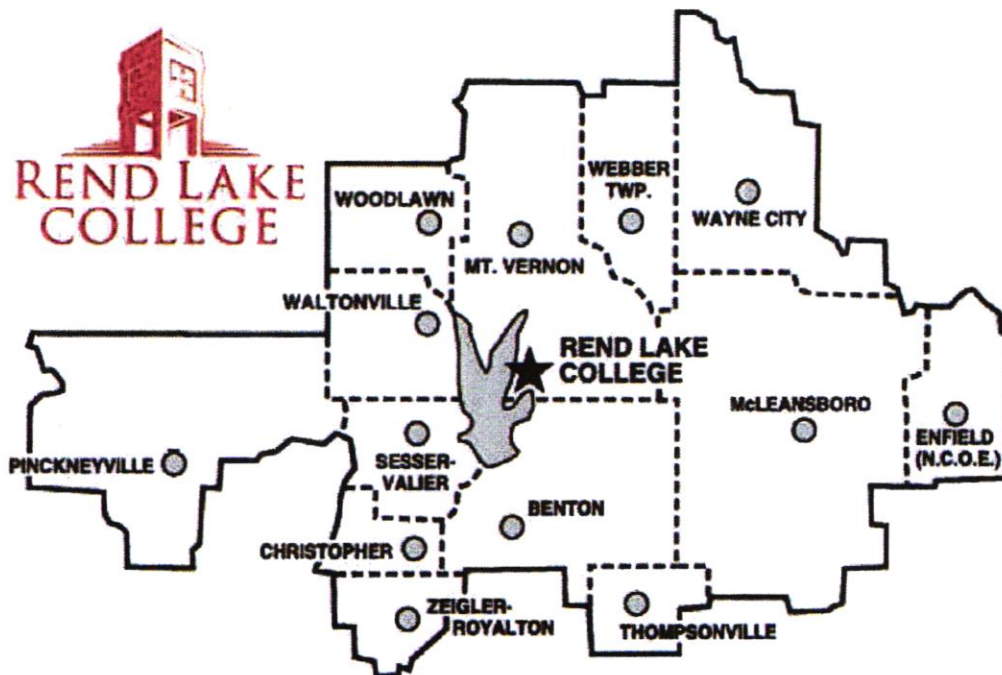
- 2002 – Major off-campus changes occurred with the addition of the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon and the Rend Lake College Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville campus.
- 2003 – The Hitting Zone, a baseball/softball training facility, began operations.
- 2005 – The Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center opened to house the Agricultural Business, Agriculture Production, Agriculture Mechanics, Heavy Equipment, and Diesel Technology programs.
- 2009 – The Coal Mining Training Center was opened. This facility included operational coal mining equipment and a mock mine with movable walls and other components. In the following year, a Mine Rescue and Training Facility was added adjacent to the Coal Mining Training Center.
- 2011 – A Science and Computer Center were added to the Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus to allow students to earn a complete associate degree in some programs without having to travel to the main campus.
- 2013 – A new shooting range, built for concealed carry and firearms training, was constructed.
- 2014 – The Pathway to Success and an entryway to the Administration Building were completed by the Rend Lake College Foundation.
- 2014 – The Rend Lake College Rec was created by renaming and repurposing the Hitting Zone.
- 2014 – An addition to the Art Program facility, located in the Learning Resource Center, was completed.
- 2015 – The Fire Rescue training facility was established.
- 2021 – Renovation of the Mary & George Slankard Learning Resource Center was completed. This project included an improved façade, new study spaces, an enhanced Children’s Library, a Career / Technical Education Success Center and Computer Lab, and a new Wellness Room.
- 2021 – The College established the RL-Cafe on the main campus to serve the needs of our students and staff for fast and economical meal choices.
- 2022 – The RLC Event Center was created after a complete restructure of the former Aquatics Center. This space is used by the College and the general public to host meetings, trainings, and other events.
- 2023 – The Coal Mine Training Center was renovated into the Agronomy Innovation Center to allow students to work with new agricultural equipment and to house a spray applicator program. In 2025, the facility was re-named the Terry Wilkerson Agronomy Innovation Center to honor the longtime president.
- 2023 – Rend Lake College installed its first solar array with the assistance of the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN).
- 2023 – Parking lots on the Ina campus were milled, resurfaced, and striped.
- 2024 – Rend Lake College installed a second solar array with the assistance of IGEN.
- 2024 – Central chilling plants and cooling towers were replaced.
- 2024 – The 22,000 square foot Southern Illinois Manufacturing Academy (SIMA) was established at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace campus in Mt. Vernon. The state-of-the-art academy serves as a home for advanced training in a variety of career and technical fields including electronics, robotics, and advanced manufacturing.
- 2024 – Parking lots at the Rend Lake College MarketPlace campus in Mt. Vernon were milled, resurfaced, and striped.

- 2025 – Rend Lake College installed a solar array at the Murphy-Wall campus in Pinckneyville.
- 2026 – Following the Game Plan capital campaign led by the Rend Lake College Foundation, a major renovation of the gymnasium was completed. Renovations included nearly 6,000 square feet of new space and renovation of 32,000 square feet of existing space. The venue was named the Banterra Sports Complex, while the gymnasium itself retained the title of James “Hummer” Waugh Gymnasium.
- 2026 – The Student Center energy efficiency project was completed with the assistance of IGEN.
- 2026 – Boilers in the central heating plant were replaced with high efficiency modular boilers.

As one can see from this list of major projects, the College has remained committed to continually changing to meet the needs of our students, staff, and the community. The College understands that change is inevitable and being proactive has allowed us to continue to serve our constituents as our mission guides us.

Communities We Serve

The map below represents Rend Lake College District #521. The Rend Lake College District includes the majority of Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Perry Counties, parts of Wayne and White Counties, and reaches into Washington and Williamson Counties. Included are 13 high school districts — Benton, Christopher, Hamilton County, Mt. Vernon, Norris City-Omaha-Enfield, Pinckneyville, Sesser-Valier, Thompsonville, Waltonville, Wayne City, Webber, Woodlawn, and Zeigler-Royalton.



Rend Lake College currently has three campuses—Ina, Murphy-Wall Pinckneyville Campus, and the RLC MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon.

Our Process – How We Gathered Data

The purpose of our Campus Facilities Master is to provide direction in the growth and development of major campus projects and programs.

The College recognizes its role in the growth and development of the communities we serve and the economies we support. It was for this reason that the College sought input from the public. We engaged with students, staff, and community members through a comprehensive survey to seek feedback regarding both what the College is currently doing well and what improvements are needed.

A copy of the survey which was designed to solicit feedback is included in the appendix to the Campus Facilities Master Plan. A summary of the survey results can also be found within the appendix.

The College sought information about the following topics:

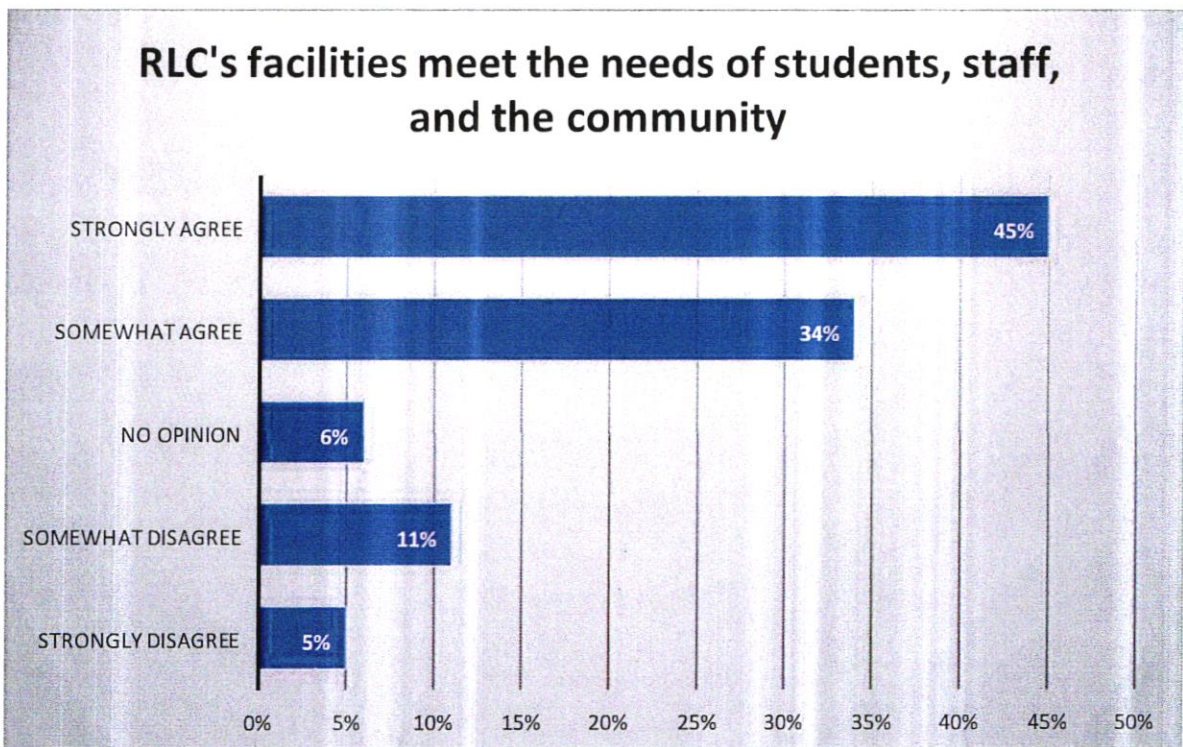
- Ways that spaces within our current facilities need to change to meet students' needs
- Prioritization of projects previously identified as campus needs
- Future programs / trainings / services that should be considered
- New buildings / facilities that the College should construct to meet the needs of the District
- Renovations, remodeling, or restructuring of current facilities that are needed
- Ideas about ways to improve upon the appearance and uses of the Murphy-Wall and MarketPlace campuses

Our Results – What We Found

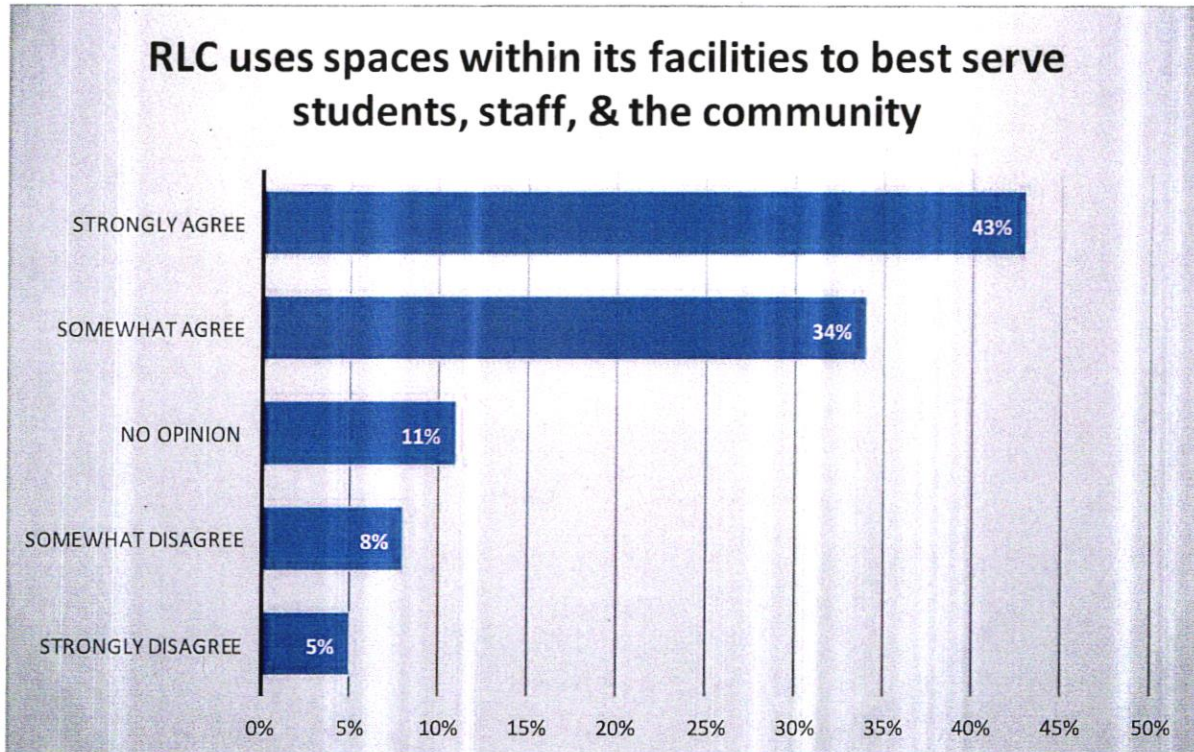
Following the mass distribution of surveys to various constituencies, the College received 67 results. The survey was designed in such a way that information was received both about the use of our current facilities and future growth opportunities.

It was evident that a vast majority of survey respondents felt the College was properly using its current facilities and spaces to best meet the needs of those we serve.

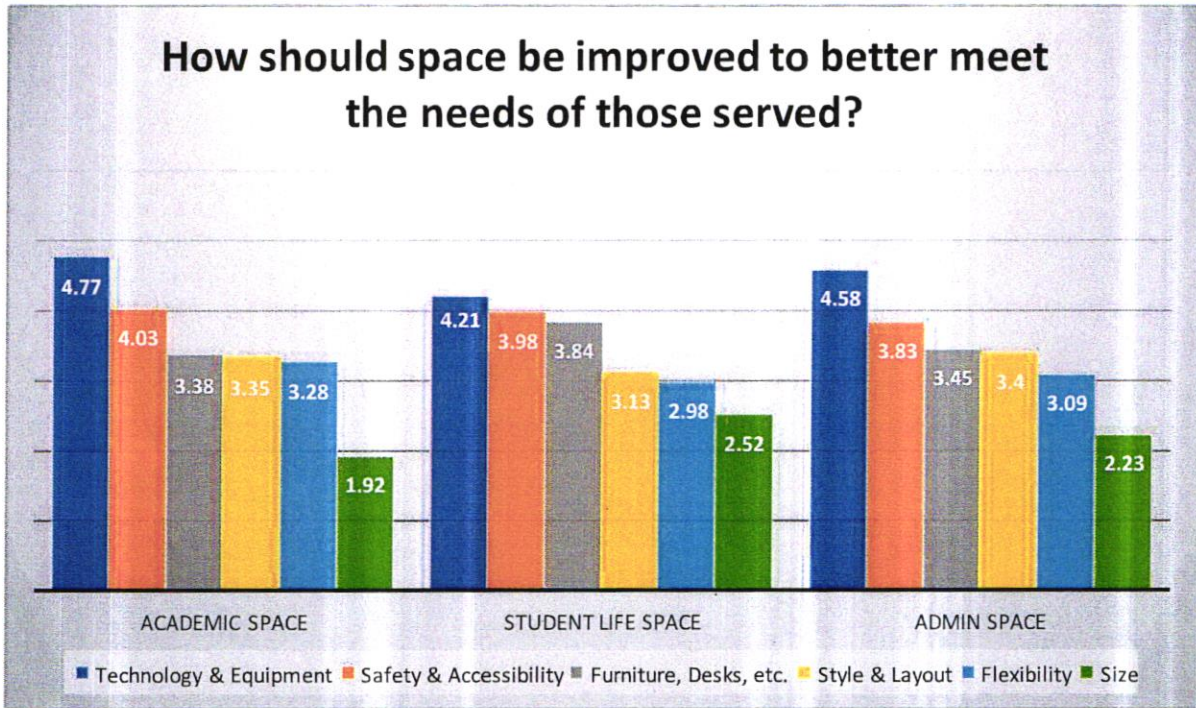
The following represents results when respondents were asked if the College’s facilities meet the needs of students, staff, and the community:



The following represents results when respondents were asked if the College uses spaces within the facilities to serve students, staff, and the community:

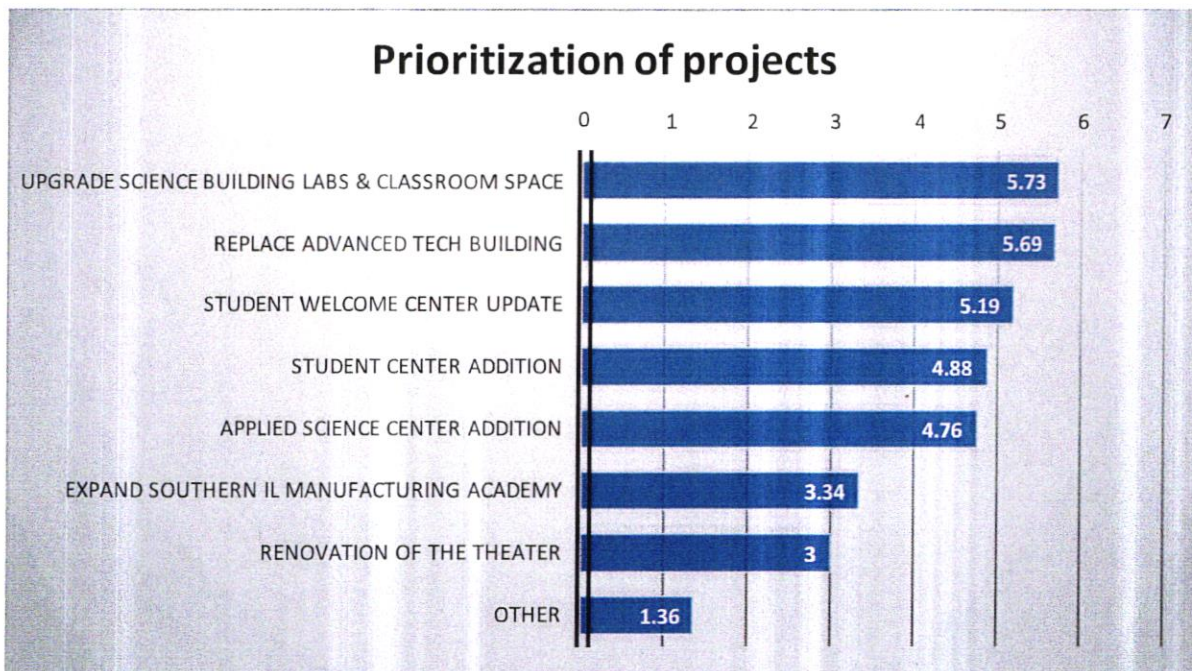


The College also sought information about ways that current spaces within the College's facilities needs to be improved. The spaces were broken down by purpose. The following represents results from these survey inquiries:



Respondents agreed that all types of spaces within the College's current facilities need to have improvements made in regard to technology and equipment. Also, improvements are needed for safety and accessibility. Most felt that the size of space was not an issue for academic and administrative space, but student life and recreation space needed to be improved for size and flexibility. Mixed importance was given to the need to modify space for style and layout and for furniture, desks, etc.

A number of projects had previously been identified as a need for Rend Lake College during strategic planning processes and through campus discussions. A number of these projects have been included within the College's Resource Management and Allocation Plan (RAMP). These projects are in various stages of the planning process and are considered to be crucial needs for the College. Survey respondents were asked to rate in order of importance the priority for the significant projects previously identified in order to ensure that the College could best meet the needs of our constituents. The following represents the results of our survey question:



According to respondents, the project of greatest importance is upgrading labs and classroom spaces in the Science Building. Replacing the Advanced Tech Building and updating the Student Welcome Center are close in importance according to those surveyed.

The remainder of the survey asked for free-form suggestions about future growth opportunities that exist for the College. Due to the free form nature of the responses, some consolidation and evaluation of responses was required. A complete listing of survey results can be found in the appendix.

Following are summaries of the most prominent results received for the questions as presented:

Q1: Please list any new curriculum or programs that you feel Rend Lake College should offer that would be beneficial to our District.

Program	# of Responses
Expanded Allied Health Offerings	10
Expanded CTE/Trades Offerings	9
Artificial Intelligence	7
HVACR	6
Dental Assisting & Hygiene	4
Expanded Baccalaureate Transfer Offerings	4
Expanded Computer Security/IT Offerings	2
Respiratory Therapy	2
Expanded Community Education Offerings	2
Environmental/Clean Energy/Conservation Offerings	1
Massage Therapy	1
Hospitality/Travel	1

Q2: Please list any new trainings/topics that you feel Rend Lake College should offer that would be beneficial to our District.

Program	# of Responses
Healthcare Trainings	7
CTE/Trades Trainings	4
IT/Cybersecurity/AI Trainings	4
Workplace Trainings	3
Leadership/Personal Enrichment	2
ACLS/BLS	1
Career Readiness	1
Continued Education/Professional Development	1
Personal Finance	1
Grant Writing	1
Parenting	1
Experiential Learning/Internships	1

Q3: Please list services that RLC should improve upon to better meet the needs of our District.

Services to Be Improved	# of Responses
Better Communication/Outreach	5
Health Initiatives/Services	3
Expanded Dining Options	2
Upgrade/Expand Satellite Campuses	1
Expanded Course Offering Hours/Formats	1
Children's Programming	1
Transportation Options	1
Internships	1
Expanded Student Government	1
Career Services	1
Improved Security	1
Support For Online Students	1

Q4: Please list any new facilities/buildings that Rend Lake College should construct to meet the future needs of our District.

New Facilities/Buildings	# of Responses
Allied Health Building	7
Recreation facilities (walking path, pickleball court, etc)	4
Additional CTE/Workforce Lab Space	2
Additional Science Lab Space	1
Additional Food Service Options	1
Welcome Center	1
Archery Facility	1
Group Study Areas	1
Expanded/Improved Student Center	1

Q5: Please list any renovations, remodeling, or restructuring of current facilities that Rend Lake College should make to meet the future needs of our District.

Facility/Building	# of Responses
Update Classrooms	1
Update Faculty/Staff Offices	2
CTE Lab Spaces	1
Update Learning Resource Center	2
Update South/NorthOasis	2
Equip Applied Science Center	1
Accessibility Improvements	1

Improve Warrior Way	1
Children's Center Updates	3
Student Center Updates	1
Science Building Updates	2

Q6: Please list any ideas for ways to improve upon the use of the Rend Lake College MarketPlace in Mt. Vernon or the Murphy-Wall campus in Pinckneyville to meet the future needs of our District.

	# of Responses
Improve Satellite Campuses	
More Course/Program Offerings	6
Student Lounge/Study Areas	3
Thrift/Resale/Food Pantry Space	2
Additional Meeting Space	1
Special Needs Classrooms	1
Better Advertising	1
Business Incubator Space	1
General Building/Grounds Improvements	1

Section 6: Our Future – How We Grow

The College has engaged in multiple long-term planning sessions with our senior leadership teams and our Board of Trustees. Opportunities to best address the needs of our current and future students have been evaluated in light of current resources and funding opportunities. The following projects have been identified as a priority for the growth and development of our student base and the communities we support.

New Allied Health Building – A new state-of-the-art Allied Health Building will provide more efficient use of space for programs and increase the quality of the learning experience for Rend Lake College Allied Health students. The proposed 21,600-square-foot facility will be used by various Allied Health programs. Currently, these programs do not have adequate laboratory, lecture, and classroom space to meet the needs of the curriculum. Space within the new facility would better meet the instructional needs of the students. Also, students will be able to learn and practice procedures with the types of updated equipment they will use during clinical experiences. State funding for this facility has been appropriated and the College has secured and set aside the local match funding needed for construction. The College also has recognized the need that will exist for funding beyond the original amounts allocated for this project. The College remains committed to securing the resources needed to fully fund this project and provide our students with learning opportunities needed to meet the demands and expectations found with health care providers. The College wishes to do its part to ensure quality graduates are available to meet the growing needs of our community. This project is pending bid award by the Capital Development Board.

Applied Sciences Center Addition – Growth in courses within the Agricultural Mechanics, Diesel, and Heavy Equipment curriculums evidence the College’s need to expand student lab space required for

these programs. Increases in student populations have caused overcrowding in the open bay lab areas. This crowding creates logistical challenges with the movement of large equipment in small spaces. Safety concerns also exist with the same space limitations. In order to properly train students and prepare them for experiences found in real-world work environments, additional lab space is needed. Spaces to be added include new service bays, a combine bay, two classrooms for instruction, a diesel lab, a small student lounge, restrooms, and storage areas. Site improvements will also be needed.

Construction of a New Advanced Technology Center – The current Advanced Technology Center formerly housed several of the career and technical education programs. Due to the age and condition of the building, most of these programs have been housed elsewhere at the Ina campus and MarketPlace campus. The existing building was originally constructed in 1978. All the plumbing, electrical, and other operational systems are original to the building and are reaching life expectancy. The current building is not arranged efficiently, resulting from years of addition and repurposing of spaces. Construction of a new state-of-the-art facility would provide more efficient use of the space designated for the programs and increase the quality of the learning experience for the students. Expansion within these areas is needed to allow for greater interaction between students and faculty and to enhance learning opportunities for students.

Student Center Addition – This project will involve a two-story addition to the existing Student Center. This will allow for additional student common spaces, dining areas, and meeting rooms. The project will also allow for moving of the campus Bookstore to an area which is more accessible for the receiving and processing of books. An elevator will be installed to allow for greater ease of access for disabled students. Site improvements will include redeveloping of the patio and the addition of accessible outdoor spaces.

Student Welcome Center Renovations – This project will involve a significant remodel to the administration building to create a more modern and efficient Student Welcome Center. The welcome center will revolutionize the way prospective and current students interact with staff throughout the advisement process.

Section 7: Protection, Health, and Safety – Keeping Students, Faculty, Staff, and Community Safe and Healthy

The following projects have been identified as potential future protection, health, and safety priorities:

- Upgrade antiquated HVAC controls with a modern web-based system
- Replace end-of-life air handlers throughout campus buildings
- Replace cracked sidewalks and steps
- Replace inclined platform lift in the Student Center
- Resurface main entry roads to campus
- Upgrade campus sewer main
- Replace windows throughout campus buildings with energy efficient glass
- Install generators at the Wayne Arnold Recreational Center, Terry Wilkerson Agronomy Innovation Center, and Mark S. Kern Applied Science Center
- Replace existing end-of-life generators

- Modernize campus restrooms facilities
- Replace roofs on campus buildings including the Vocational Building, North Oasis, Learning Resource Center, and Science Building
- Add parking and roadway lights to unlighted areas on campus

Section 7: Our Plan – How We Use What We Have Learned

The Campus Facility Master Plan is meant to be a living document. It is not meant to be an inflexible plan of action. We acknowledge that many opportunities will present themselves as we work to better the lives of our students and our communities. The development of this plan presents the thoughtful development of ideas for advancement in light of emerging trends. Future decisions can and may vary from the recommendations of this report. We appreciate all of the thoughtful responses received from survey respondents and during community outreach events. The College remains committed to being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by our community and to working to ensure the continued long-term growth and development of our district.