

Business Roundtable

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Another very exciting development is the plan to begin a two year Associate's Degree in Robotics in August 2019. This program will involve six robotics classes over the two years. The second-year robotic classes are:

- Robotic safety & operation
- Robot design & maintenance
- Robotic end effectors & tooling
- Welding with robots
- Robotic applications capstone

The associate's degree program is in process at TBR for approval which is expected. Motlow has a target plan of 30 initial students in this program. This is a milestone achievement for Warren County and area industry.

As announced recently, TDOT is undertaking a road project that includes a new extension road from the 70S four lane highway over to the Motlow ARTC. This access will be most important for the influx of students and visitors. The access road will tie directly into Magness Drive.

Two things are needed to assure maximum success with this expanded Motlow plan including the new ARTC. One is area high schools in White, DeKalb, Cannon, Coffee, Van Buren, and Grundy counties need robotics training programs as we now have at WCHS. BRAC



The Automation & Robotics Training Center is under construction in McMinnville and is scheduled to offer non-credit classes in May 2019.

has urged these counties to make this commitment. In effect, the area high schools need to become feeder schools for the Motlow ARTC.

The second need is funding for the Motlow ARTC. The original budget that the funding was developed from was well below

the construction costs that the bids came in with. This coupled with unexpected construction costs with the ARTC all add up to needing approximately \$1 million in additional funding beyond the original \$5.5 million grant. Motlow and friends will conduct fund raising going forward with this target in mind.

All these developments are tremendously exciting for Warren County. We have become the CTE (Career Technical Education) leader for the state of Tennessee. TN Commissioner of Education Candice McQueen has so labeled us as such. We will

have in excess of \$10 million invested in advanced skills training once the ARTC is complete. This capability offers our youth unbridled access to high paying jobs and careers.

BRAC congratulates Fred Rascoe and Larry Flatt for leading the charge.

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