



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Public Relations Officer**

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**Carroll Community College to Host Ribbon-Cutting for
Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center**

Media invited to ribbon-cutting, ceremonial photos, interviews, and hard hat tours of new skilled trades facility

WHAT:

Carroll Community College will host a ribbon-cutting for the new Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center. The 10,000-square-foot facility will expand hands-on training in welding, automotive technology, electrical, plumbing, and other high-demand skilled trades. The center will help the College serve more students, address program waitlists, and build a stronger pipeline of job-ready talent for regional employers.

Following the ceremony, members of the media will have an opportunity to tour the building while wearing hard hats, view the spaces, capture photos and video, and interview College leaders, students, partners, and invited officials.

WHEN:

Monday, October 19, 2026

3 p.m.

Media arrival recommendation: 2:30 p.m.

There will be limited parking, and media will be able to drop off equipment. Parking will be available across the street at 125 Airport Drive

WHERE:

**Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center
110 Airport Drive, Westminster, Maryland**

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

- Official ribbon-cutting
- Exterior and interior images of the new center
- Hard hat tours of the building
- Views of specialized instructional and training spaces

- Interviews with College leadership, students, workforce leaders, employers, donors, and elected officials
- Ceremonial photos with speakers, partners, and project stakeholders

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

- Dr. Rose Mince, President, Carroll Community College
- Dr. Kelly Koermer, Vice President of Workforce, Business and Community Education
- Sherri-Le Bream, Carroll Community College Board of Trustees
- Carlene Cassidy, President, Ratcliffe Foundation
- Robin Summerfield, Regional Director for Western Maryland, delivering remarks on behalf of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen
- Portia Wu, Secretary, Maryland Department of Labor
- Congressman Johnny Olszewski
- Wyatt Runciman, Automotive Technology student
- The official ribbon-cutting and facility tours will follow the speaking program.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:

- Remarks from College leadership, elected officials, and a student speaker
- On-site interview opportunities
- Tour of Facility

For more information, please call Lisa Slappy at 410.386.8184, or email lslappy@carrollcc.edu.

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About Carroll Community College:

Carroll Community College's mission is *Empowering learners. Changing lives. Building community.* Carroll Community College (Carroll) provides accessible, high-quality educational opportunities to advance careers, enrich lives, and strengthen the community we serve. Carroll offers academic and career preparation leading to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and for direct entry into professional opportunities. Carroll Community College is located at 1601 Washington Road, Westminster, Md., 21157. Visit us on our website at www.carrollcc.edu.





News Release

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October 13, 2026

MEDIA CONTACT:

**Lisa Slappy, Chief Communications and
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Carroll Community College Carroll Community College to Open Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center

***New facility expands hands-on education and creates stronger pathways to skilled
trades careers in Carroll County***

WESTMINSTER, Md.— Carroll Community College will celebrate the opening of the Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 3 p.m. at 110 Airport Drive in Westminster.

The new 10,000-square-foot center will expand hands-on education in welding, automotive technology, electrical, plumbing, and other high-demand skilled trades. Designed with input from local professionals, the facility includes specialized labs that replicate real job sites and give students opportunities to train with industry-standard systems, equipment, and tools.

“This center represents a bold investment in our students, our employers, and the economic future of Carroll County,” said Dr. Rose Mince, President of Carroll Community College. “The Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center will give more students access to hands-on education that prepares them for meaningful, family-sustaining careers. It will also help local employers connect with the skilled, job-ready talent they need to grow and thrive.”

The facility supports the College’s effort to increase training capacity in programs where student interest already exceeds available space. Carroll Community College currently has waitlists in automotive technology and welding, and the new center provides an immediate opportunity to serve more students and reduce delays in entering these programs.

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Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center — Page 2/2

The initiative is supported by a \$2.8 million grant from the Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation for the Ratcliffe Works: Building Skills, Creating Futures project.

The grant supports the applied technology and trades center while helping reduce barriers for students through scholarships, stipends, tools, direct support, and connections to employment. The initiative is designed to expand equitable access to industry-driven education and strengthen the pipeline of skilled workers available to area employers.

“We are grateful to the Ratcliffe Foundation and all of the partners who helped make this center possible,” Dr. Mince added. “Together, we are opening doors for students, responding directly to workforce needs, and creating new opportunities that will benefit families and businesses throughout our region.

”The center will offer students practical learning experiences in dedicated spaces for plumbing, electrical, welding, and automotive technologies. Each lab is designed to support safe application, technical skill development, and preparation for real workplace environments.

The College has also welcomed the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee as a partner at the center to provide a daytime electrical apprenticeship program.

The Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center will serve as a bridge facility until a permanent Trades, Training and Technology Complex can be constructed on the College’s main campus.

The October 19 event will include remarks from College leaders, workforce and foundation partners, elected officials, and a student representative. The program will conclude with the official ribbon-cutting, followed by facility tours.

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Fact Sheet

Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center

Event at a Glance

Date	Monday, October 19, 2026
Event	Ribbon Cutting for the Ratcliffe Technology and Trades
Time	3 p.m.
Training	Welding, automotive technology, electrical and plumbing
Location	110 Airport Drive, Westminster Md

Facility

- The center is a 10,000-square-foot skilled trades training facility
- Designed to expand hands-on education in high-demand technical fields
- **Total project investment:** \$2.8 million

Why It Matters

Expands Access to High-Demand Careers-The center increases training capacity in welding, automotive technology, electrical, plumbing, and other skilled trades, providing more opportunities for students to enter family-sustaining career

Addresses Workforce Needs-Local employers need skilled workers. The center helps strengthen the regional talent pipeline by preparing job-ready graduates with industry-relevant skills.

Reduces Student Waitlists-The facility enables the College to serve more students in programs where demand currently exceeds available space, helping students begin training sooner. Through the Ratcliffe Works: Building Skills, Creating Futures Initiative, students can access scholarship stipends, tools and direct assistance.

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Strategic Alignment

The project supports Carroll's institutional priorities:

- **Learn:** The center expands educational opportunities through hands-on, experiential learning in high-demand skilled trades programs, allowing students to gain real-world skills using industry-standard equipment and environments.
- **Experience:** Students learn in specialized labs that replicate actual job sites while benefiting from direct connections to employers, workforce partners, and career pathways.
- **Earn:** The project prepares students for immediate employment in high-wage, high-demand careers while helping regional employers fill critical workforce needs.

What Makes This Center Unique?

Industry-inspired learning environments designed to mirror the workplace.

Multiple skilled trades programs under one roof.

A combination of hands-on training, student support services, and employer connections.

Flexible space designed to evolve with workforce needs.

Regional Impact

The Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center serves more than Carroll County. By expanding skilled trades education and training opportunities, the center helps meet workforce needs across Central Maryland and strengthens the region's economic competitiveness. This investment benefits students, employers, and communities alike.

A Community Effort

This project reflects the power of partnership among philanthropy, education, employers, workforce agencies, elected officials, and community leaders who share a commitment to creating opportunity through education and workforce development

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center

1. What is the Ratcliffe Applied Technology and Trades Center?

The center is Carroll Community College's skilled trades expansion initiative. The 10,000-square-foot facility will provide dedicated, hands-on instructional space for high-demand programs.

2. Where is the center located?

The center is located at 110 Airport Drive in Westminster, Maryland.

3. What programs will be offered at the center?

The initial program focus includes welding, automotive technology, electrical, and plumbing.

4. Why is the College opening this facility?

The center will expand training capacity, increase access to hands-on education, respond to regional workforce shortages, and help local employers connect with qualified workers. The College already has waitlists in automotive technology and welding and needs additional space to meet student demand.

5. What will students experience inside the facility?

Students will train in specialized labs designed to resemble real work environments. The spaces will include industry-standard systems, tools, and equipment that support practical skill development and job preparation.

6. How was the project funded?

The Philip E. and Carole R. Ratcliffe Foundation awarded a \$2.8 million grant to Carroll Community College for the Ratcliffe Works: Building Skills, Creating Futures project.

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7. How does the project reduce barriers for students?

Grant support provides scholarships, stipends, tools, direct assistance, and connections to employment. These resources are intended to make training more accessible and help students complete their programs.

8. Is this the College's permanent trades facility?

The center is a bridge facility that will expand training capacity while the College works toward a permanent complex on its main campus.

9. Will media be able to tour the building?

Yes. Media representatives will be able to participate in a guided hard hat tour after the ribbon-cutting.