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Press Release

CRC IN GROUND-BREAKING MOVE TO LAUNCH UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Cambridge Regional College has joined forces with local employers and the University of Cambridge in a ground-breaking move to develop plans for a new technical school in the city.

The proposed University Technical College – for 14 to 19 year-olds – would combine traditional academic subjects with high-quality technical qualifications, focusing on addressing a skills shortage in the region’s healthcare sector.

Talks are still underway between the partners, but a proposal is expected to be submitted early next year. If it is accepted, Cambridge could have a new University Technical College by 2013 or 2014.

Yesterday, former education secretary Lord Baker, who is spearheading the move to open UTCs throughout the country, visited CRC to talk about the proposal.



CRC Principal Anne Constantine with Lord Baker

Afterwards he said it had been a very positive visit. "I am very pleased the key players were all there, including Cambridge University, Addenbrooke's Hospital and key employers. There is a great shortage of health care workers so this is much needed."

Anne Constantine, Principal of CRC, said: "We are delighted to be partnering Cambridge University in what we hope will be a groundbreaking innovation in 14 to 19 education, specialising in health care, health science and laboratory science.

"Cambridge has a massive healthcare sector and globally recognised bio-medical cluster which are very significant employers in the area and there is considerable backing from employers in the health services and pharmaceutical sectors for the idea of a University Technical College in the region.

"Employment in these sectors is set to grow considerably over the next 15 years and students at the UTC would be able to go into a range of careers in these fields."

She said the meeting with Lord Baker had gone extremely well.

"He was very enthusiastic about the proposal and the partnership and believes that UTCs will be appearing all over the country throughout the next few years. They are missing from the education system at the moment, and they provide a choice for young people that isn't currently available here in the UK.

"We are planning to put in a submission early next year. If it is approved then we hope the UTC could be open in 2013 or 2014."

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.