

Opportunity Center celebrates 'big ideas'

Written by Deb Egenberger

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LEXINGTON—Anyone familiar with old Wal-Mart stores before they became super centers can still detect a resemblance in the exterior of the Dawson County Opportunity Center.

But inside the doors of the 64,000 square-foot tan building on Plum Creek Parkway in Lexington is a whole new world ready to be revealed to the public.

Lexington's Early Learning Academy and Parent Student Resource Center opened in the south end of the facility in March 2010 marking the end of the first phase of renovation.

Completion of Phase II came in January when Central Community College began hosting classes in the middle portion of the building.

"When a project like this is done, you always breathe a sigh of relief," said Jen Wolf, executive director of Dawson Area Development. "Then you look ahead to the next big idea."

DAD was the force behind the grant funding to pull the Opportunity Center project together.

The first part was made possible through a \$512,200 neighborhood stabilization grant that DAD secured from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

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OPEN HOUSE

The Dawson County Opportunity Center will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house beginning with remarks from Gov. Dave Hildebrand at 2 p.m. on Friday. The open house will run from 2:30 p.m. with business after hours from 5-8 p.m. The event is hosted by the City of Lexington, Lexington Public Schools, Dawson Area Development and Central Community College. The Opportunity Center is located at 1001 Plum Creek Parkway in Lexington in the old Wal-Mart building.

~~1001 Plum Creek Parkway, Lexington, Georgia 30606. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2011. For more information, please call 706/835-2222 or visit www.dawsoncountyga.gov.~~