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# JCTC wants downtown enrollment to rise to 20,000 students

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JCTC President Tony Newberry talks about the college's plans to expand during a news conference on the campus. (By Bill Luster, The Courier-Journal) April 8, 2011 / cj

Written by Nancy C. Rodriguez nrodriguez@courier-journal.com

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Defying a national trend that has seen community colleges abandon downtowns and move to the suburbs, Jefferson Community and Technical College unveiled a \$200 million expansion plan Friday that calls for the school to construct a new student center, new classroom buildings and a new technology center downtown in the next two decades.

The plan calls for the college to more than double the size of its downtown campus and to expand its

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current enrollment from about 8,000 to 20,000 students.

“We are signaling our commitment to continue to invest in the future of downtown Louisville,” JCTC

President Tony Newberry said at a press conference. “Across the country, in many urban cities, community colleges are moving out of downtown and shifting their programs to the suburbs. ... We are excited to be part of the revitalization of downtown Louisville.”

Newberry said the plan will be rolled out in three phases, and will largely be funded with public money, although the college also will look to raise some money through private [donations](#).

The first phase of the plan is already underway, with the college's purchase of a little more than 3 acres along South First and Second streets and East College Street. The properties cost \$3.1 million and were paid for with \$10.5 million authorized by the General Assembly last year, Newberry said.

College officials said they plan to acquire additional property in the area in the coming months.

Last year the college abandoned talks to acquire the former Holiday Inn at 120 W.

[Broadway](#) that is now owned by Wayside Christian Mission. That building does not figure in its new expansion plans.

Initially the newly-acquired property will be used to alleviate a parking shortage at the college by adding 150 spaces, officials said.

Student Keira Woods, 20, said more parking was definitely needed because it was “hectic” trying to find it.

“You get a lot of students coming to class late,” she said

The plan's second phase calls for the college to lobby for \$28.6 million from the General Assembly to renovate the Hartford Tower and Seminary Building, which it already owns.

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**JCTC Master Plan**



Source: Jefferson Community & Technical College

The Courier-Journal

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