

Aviation center nets \$100K grant

From staff reports

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College of The Albemarle will receive another \$100,000 grant for its Aviation Technical Training Center, its third for the project in as many months.

COA will receive the latest grant from the Raleigh-based N.C. Rural Economic Development Center to purchase equipment for the aviation center which broke ground in Currituck County last week.

“We’ve supported the college on other projects in the past, but in terms of the aviation work, this is the first grant,” said Jason Gray, director of the office of research and innovation for the Rural Center. “This is not a huge investment on our part, but it was our way of helping make sure they could finish the project out. Big projects like this usually require lots of partners and rarely is one funding source enough to do the job.”

In February, COA officials announced the college had received a \$200,000 grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation, also to purchase equipment.

In January, state officials announced the aviation center would receive \$1 million to build an apron to the runway at Currituck Regional Airport so that planes can reach the new center. Currituck County is providing the \$6.8 million to build the aviation center.

COA officials could not be reached for comment on the Rural Center grant.

Previously, they’ve said the Currituck aviation center should be complete by early 2013.

When it opens, COA’s machining class will be moved from the main campus in Elizabeth City to the center. A drafting program will also be relocated to Currituck. Later that year, the college’s aviation sheet metal program will also move to the Currituck site.

The Rural Center grants approved Feb. 29 totaled \$9 million and went to rural projects designed to increase health care availability, spur economic development and upgrade water and sewer facilities in 44 counties.