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Weed High School awarded state grant to build on

By Jeff Knebel

Weed High School has been awarded a \$500,000 Career and Technical Education Facilities grant that the school plans to use for its Building Trades, Construction and Manufacturing College and Career Pathway program.

"The purpose of this grant is to build a new construction and manufacturing training facility," said principal Mike Matheson.

The grant is part of \$199 million in state grants and loans that the State Allocation Board announced it awarded to high schools throughout the state in order to build or modernize career technical education facilities, according to a recent press release from the SAB.



The Weed High School ROP Construction class poses around the material that will eventually be storage facilities the class will sell with the help of Weed Building Supply. A recently awarded state grant will help the school fund a proposed new construction facility.

Receipt of the grant funds is contingent upon WHS raising an additional \$500,000, a large project that students in the ROP Construction class are getting involved in.

"Governor Schwarzenegger has a strong, personal commitment and belief that career tech programs are an educational alternative that many California kids need," said SAB member and Department of General Services Director Will Bush, according to the press release. "The benefit of these wonderful programs is that they provide the opportunity for our young adults to join the California workforce with enhanced skills and be more productive citizens. These grants will help ensure that California can continue to provide the academic, technical, and occupational knowledge to guide students to postsecondary education and career."

The proposed facility at Weed High School will include a 4,000 square foot shop and building area and an 800 square foot computer-aided drafting classroom. Total cost of the project is \$1 million.

Matheson said that the new facility will provide extra space that will allow construction class students to undertake projects that the current facility won't accommodate.

The current WHS ROP Construction class - part of the Building Trades, Construction, and Manufacturing College and Career Pathway - is building small storage facilities that will be showcased and advertised for sale at Weed Building Supply upon completion. Money from the sale of the buildings will go back into the construction program.

The storage facilities will be complete with a door and windows and will be painted, according to course instructor Damon Zeller.

"The construction program is a great way students can gain exposure to many different opportunities," said Zeller. "The new construction facility will provide the students with extra space necessary for bigger future projects."

WHS junior and ROP construction class member Robert Middleton said the knowledge and experience he has gained from the class has been useful in other projects outside the classroom.

"The class teaches a lot of hands-on skills," he said. "This is one of my favorite classes. It is really fun seeing things come together right in front of you. I could see myself working in construction in the future."