The Irvine Valley College (IVC) School of Integrated Design, Engineering and Automation (IDEA) at the Advanced Technology and Education Park (ATEP) is designed for the current and next generations of innovators and students. Classes commenced in the building in March.

The building is LEED Gold equivalent.

Constructed by the South Orange County Community College District, this building will serve as a catalyst for IVC’s career education programs, offering innovative and effective technical education through its classrooms, outdoor learning areas, collaboration spaces, technology and infrastructure, and faculty spaces.

The total building area of 32,492 square feet contains three classrooms and six specialized teaching labs: an alternative energy lab (indoor and outdoor), an optics/photonics lab, an electronics lab, an automation/digital manufacturing lab and an additive and subtractive Design Model Prototyping lab. The building’s large central lobby will serve as a social corridor for students, faculty and community members.

Costs for design, construction and equipment: $29.35 million.

Integrating education with industry, the building is also home to the college’s Economic and Workforce Development staff. IDEA at ATEP is conceived to support an innovative business partnering model.

Students will benefit from on-site services including the L. C. Lee Certified Testing Center, a student resource center, admissions, counseling and financial aid. The administrative space features two dean offices and an open concept.

Encouraging a student-centered academic experience through collaboration, the building is expected to be a creative response to the needs of the program with a cost-effective, high-quality design and a simple, flexible structural system.

The builder and architectural team—McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. and Dougherty Architects—have worked hand-in-hand with the South Orange County Community College District stakeholders to design a building to meet the project vision.