

Wellness Center Reaches 30 Percent Completion Point

By Betty Adams

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Construction of the Dr. Vasudevan Wellness Center and Delta AHEC is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to open in February 2006.

The 25,000-square foot Delta Area Health Education Center will provide classrooms, meeting rooms, a youth center, a medical library, and both indoor and outdoor walking tracks. The Center also will have the latest in exercise equipment to help those who use the facility to get in shape.

The new Delta AHEC building was made possible through financing provided by Southern Development Bancorporation and a \$4 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The building will be owned by the Helena Health Foundation, which will lease the building to the Delta AHEC.

"It is like a dream come true. With our expanded facility, we will be able to better serve our constituents and help them live healthier, more productive lives. This is a much appreciated development for this part of the state," said Becky Hall, Delta AHEC director.

The Delta AHEC meets health educational needs of the most underserved people in the Arkansas Delta region - serving as a bridge between the Delta and the resources of University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Through Delta AHEC, the people of the Delta have the opportunity to take ownership of health problems and improve the health statistics for a brighter future.