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Warren County

## Sinclair signs lease deal for new college campus in Mason

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MASON — Sinclair Community College has agreed to lease a building near Kings Island as the site for its new Warren County campus.

The building does not exist, but preliminary construction was underway Thursday.

Sinclair plans to register students for fall semester classes.

An agreement was signed Tuesday between Sinclair and Tipton Development Group of Mason, which owns the property in an office park along Interstate 71.

Tipton will erect a 17,645-square-foot building and Sinclair will lease the space. No details about lease terms were available, said college spokesman Gary Honnert.

Sinclair and Tipton representatives have sought approval of their project from the city of Mason even before they had final plans to build the branch campus on Courseview Drive north of the Linder Family Tennis Center. The Mason Planning Commission approved a preliminary site plan in December and last month the city council approved a \$50,000 tax abatement for the Sinclair project.

The first phase calls for 12 classrooms, offices and a bookstore.

Sinclair hopes to attract 500 students initially but the goal is to add an additional 18,000 square feet to the single-story building in the future, said Sinclair Senior Vice President Kenneth Moore.

Moore has described the construction schedule as "ambitious."

Steve Schwander, who is developing property he owns west of the Tipton site, has worked with architects and other commercial developments including schools for decades, said the college's schedule isn't impossible.

"There is plenty of time to build that building, unless of course they find an ancient burial ground under there," he said. "With Tipton as the builder it is certainly doable."

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