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**Groundbreaking on CVTC
Aviation Training Facility**

Ideas and dreams gave way to shovels and hard hats August 15, when ground was officially broken on *Coosa Valley Technical College's* aviation training facility at the *Richard B. Russell Regional Airport*.

The facility is a product of a partnership between *Floyd County* and *Coosa Valley Technical College*.

"It takes a partnership to make a project like this work," said *Floyd County Commission Chairman Dr. Jerry Jennings (LR'87)*.

CVTC Director of Aviation Programs Jon Byrd echoed Dr. Jennings' comments, saying, "Throughout this process, we've hit it out of the park every time, and we would not have been able to do this without the collaborative efforts of everyone involved. There are other technical colleges in the state of Georgia that

have tried to build a program like this and have not been able to do it. This is exciting. Extremely exciting."

The plans for the facility include an approximately 30,000-square-foot building located on airport property. Already, donations that include aircraft, ground support equipment and various other forms of equip-

ment have been made to the avionics program.

The program will be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration, producing a well-trained workforce. Aviation-related businesses are being recruited to take advantage of the CVTC program.

As CVTC's Aviation Technology Program prepares to take off, the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce is actively marketing the community to the aviation industry. The Chamber has been represented at three aviation-related trade shows in the past few months, with one more scheduled in September. Three of those shows were located in either Atlanta or Marietta.

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(From left) Chairman Dr. Jerry Jennings, Floyd County Commission; Chairman Evie McNiece (LR'02), Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce; State Rep. Katie Dempsey (LR'87); Chairman Howard Lowden, Richard B. Russell Regional Airport Commission; and Aviation Program Director Jon Byrd, Coosa Valley Technical College, officially break ground on the new CVTC aviation and avionics maintenance program's new facility, as Doug Elkins, Alan Bell Architect, Inc., and Contractor Jeff Bennett (LR'06) look on from behind.

