

Valencia College to break ground on new Poinciana campus

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Valencia College at Poinciana Campus opens in the fall of 2017. The 65,000-square-foot building was designed by architect DLR Group to complement its natural surroundings. . (Valencia College)

Valencia College and Osceola County celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Poinciana Campus at 9 a.m. today.

The \$27 million college, slated to open in the fall of 2017, was designed to showcase and enhance the landscape around it. The college will serve 2,500 degree-seeking students, as well an additional 1,000 students seeking job training.

In an interview last fall with GrowthSpotter, Campus President Kathleen Plinske said the 65,000-square-foot building would be completely solar powered and designed to capture and reuse rainwater. The goal is to exceed LEED gold standards and strive for a "net zero" energy effect.

Plinske said the Polytechnic Campus at Arizona State University in Mesa served as an inspiration for the "modern agrarian" style, particularly the use of perforated metal shade structures on the building's exterior.



The DLR Group utilized a "modern agrarian" style for the new Poinciana Campus building, shown here in the southwest view. The metal grids on the side of the building are designed to provide shade, improve energy efficiency and protect migratory birds. (Valencia College)

The shade structures, which were modified into a grid pattern on the Poinciana building, filter the sunlight, improve energy efficiency and protect migratory birds.

DLR Group is the project architect. Clancy & Theys is the construction manager.