

## June 7, 2006 Bill includes funding for college

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John Murtha has announced that the House Appropriations Committee last night passed legislation that contains funding to renovate the building that will become the new home of Pennsylvania Highlands Community College in Johnstown. The committee is responsible for writing the federal government's 13 annual spending bills.

Included in the fiscal year 2007 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, and Judiciary bill is \$990,000 to help the college convert 120,000 square feet of space at the current Richland High School into a facility to serve the Johnstown area. The school district will vacate the building in the fall of 2007.

The remaining 47,000 square feet will be used by the East Hills Recreation Commission.

"This facility will not only serve as a training center for the technical work force we need for sustained economic growth in the region, but it will also be a boon to the taxpayers of Cambria County because it will turn a vacant building into a useful site," Murtha said. "In addition, Richland-area residents will have a new community recreation and senior center where they can enjoy the educational and recreational programs and activities offered by the commission."

Also planned for the new center are high-tech "smart" classrooms and advanced laboratories related to biotechnology, information literacy, nanotechnology/electronics, computer science, medical program instruction and distance learning/internet education.

The bill now goes to the full House for consideration.