



□ Mid-Plains celebrates new location, dedication to education.

Bellevue University offering undergraduate degrees here

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Imperial's extended campus of Mid-Plains Community College took a giant leap forward last Friday with the opening of their new facility.

The ribbon cutting and open house celebration Friday for the new facility, located at 1324 Broadway, further cements the commitment Mid-Plains has made to its Imperial campus.

The new campus is located in the former Hometown Pharmacy building.

Mid-Plains purchased the building last year and completed a full remodel of the 3,000 square-foot building.

In addition to office and conference space, the facility features classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art distance learning systems.

The entire facility is designed to allow learning in both local face-to-face classes and through virtual technology and distance learning.

Mid-Plains received \$25,000 in economic development money generated by Imperial's one-cent sales tax. This money was used to help pay for remodeling expenses.

Mid-Plains Community College President Dr. Michael Chipps thanked the Board of Governors for their vision and the community of Imperial for helping fund the purchase and remodel.

"This exciting facility will offer more technology and opportunity to expand the programs previously offered to this area. This is about growing a workforce-growing our own to stay here in Southwest Nebraska," Chipps said.

Brenda Ledall, coordinator of the Imperial extended campus, expressed her excitement about the new facility.

"I am so excited at the educational opportunities we can now offer our youth as well as the rest of our residents in southwest Nebraska," she said.

