



NEWS RELEASE

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Lane Community College's Latest Education Center Will Open by Thanksgiving

New Industry and Trades Education Center features Mass Ply

LYONS, Ore., Nov. 12, 2024 – Lane Community College (LCC) in Eugene, Oregon, will open the Industry and Trades Education Center (ITEC) to students this Winter 2025 term. This innovative mass timber and steel hybrid building will provide a “workforce and advanced technology hub” focused on career technical education and apprenticeship programs. The primary structural components of the new facility are exposed steel beams and Freres Engineered Wood’s Mass Ply Panels (MPP), complementing the programs offered.

“The steel structure alludes to that machining aspect of the building, and the wood structure is alluding to carpentry and other related trades,” says Riley Allen, a project manager with Lease Crutcher Lewis, the general contractor selected for the new facility. “The mass timber industry is something we’re proud of here in Oregon. The Mass Ply is exposed on the underside, so when you’re walking those corridors, you’re seeing beautiful, Oregon-grown wood above your head.”

The 55,353-square-foot building features three floors of space for instruction across industries such as manufacturing and construction technologies, unmanned aircraft systems, and select apprenticeship programs. Project partners intentionally selected MPP for the building’s subfloors. They wanted to prioritize local businesses and products, since the primary purpose of the ITEC building is to support Oregon’s economic health by educating future workers in prominent and emerging industrial trades.

“We are thrilled to contribute to Lane Community College’s latest education center,” says Tyler Freres, Freres Engineered Wood’s Vice President of Sales. “We believe this new facility will strengthen Oregon’s workforce and economy, and we would welcome any of these students to rediscover the opportunities available to them in the timber industry, creating the most environmentally sustainable products on earth.”

The ITEC building will be complete and ready for occupancy by Thanksgiving of 2024, just in time to welcome LCC’s next cohort of students for the Winter 2025 term.

For more information about Freres Engineered Wood and their Mass Ply products, call 503-859-2121 or visit www.frereswood.com.

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About Freres Engineered Wood Products

[Freres Engineered Wood](http://www.frereswood.com), formerly Freres Lumber Co., Inc., has a 100-year history of innovation in the wood products industry, beginning in 1922 when T.G. Freres started a small sawmill in Oregon's Santiam Canyon. Today, Freres' operations include finished plywood, lumber, veneer and structural composite lumber, Mass Ply products, biochar, and a cogeneration facility that supplies renewable power for the local area. Known for being traditionally innovative, Freres is deeply committed to its community and to sustainable forest management practices. The company uses 100 percent of the wood it processes throughout its three operations—Freres Engineered Wood Products, Freres Timber and Evergreen BioPower LLC—and six wood products facilities. Freres provides family wage jobs to nearly 500 employees. For more information, visit www.frereswood.com or call 503-859-2121.