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Spartanburg Gets Medical School, New Jobs

### ***School Will Open At Former Site Of Mill Village***

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**SPARTANBURG, S.C.** -- A muddy and rubble-filled lot that was once home to a Spartanburg mill village will be the future site of a medical school. It'll open in the Fall of 2011.

"I couldn't be more excited," said Ed Hall who was born in a home in the mill village. He also worked there.

The property sits off Howard St. Right now, a giant smoke stack serves as a beacon. For years, it has been empty.

"It always hurt," Hall said. "But, always hoped something would come along."

On Thursday, The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) broke ground there for its Carolinas Campus.

The Virginia-based college chose Spartanburg over Charlotte and Rock Hill. Several of its students were already undergoing training at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. They suggested the city.

"When we met the community and saw how they embrace students, they embraced education and how progressive they were in the way they thought about things, there was no other choice," said Dr. Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, the school's dean and executive vice president.

The college will be 65,000 square feet. It'll stand three stories tall and 150 students will be enrolled there each year.

"The mission of the school is about filling the gaps that exist in healthcare now," said Tooke-Rawlins.

The medical school will partner with Wofford College.

"Unofficially, I believe that we have the highest percentage of first year students who describe themselves as pre-med in the country," said Dr. Benjamin Dunlap, president of Wofford College.

The school's other partner will be Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Physicians will help teach.

"Being the teacher always keeps you sharper," said hospital president Ingo Angermeier. "You've always got lots of eyes watching you so you want to be on your best."

The new school will eventually employ 120 people full-time. Part-time positions will also be available.

"Having this located in the old Spartan Mill site in a part of town that really needs development is huge," Angermeier said.

Crews expect to begin moving dirt at the site on Monday.

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