

MU to build on VOA site

Learning center to
cost \$5.5M, be ready
in about 15 months

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WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP
— Plans to build a Miami University learning center at Voice of America Centre are moving forward.

It will likely be about 15 months before the building is ready, but classes are currently being held at a bank building at VOA.

The center, expected to cost \$5.5 million, will be primarily funded by the university.

"We're in the early design stages. It will be more than a year," said university architect Robert Keller. "It was on hold for a couple years."

Summer and fall classes scheduled for the VOA location are part of the Southeast Butler County Workforce Academy. They include statistics, zoology, microbiology, chemistry, and geology.

"VOA is back on the burner, no question about it," said Jan Toennisson, director of public affairs at Miami University's Middletown campus.

The university is redesigning plans for the site and will soon begin construction.

The building is planned to be between 20,000 and 25,000 square feet. The building could grow to be one of multiple buildings in the future.

"Right now we are calling it the Voice of America Learning Center," Keller said. "For the immediate future we just perceive one building, but any good (plan) includes expansion."

Original plans detailed a 21,000-square-foot facility on about 20 acres of land on the east side of Cox Road and north of the commercial development.

The growth and development in West Chester Township made it a prime location for Miami's expansion, officials said.