

## Southwest High School Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Community Celebrate Construction of New Campus



On Friday, November 16, 2007, almost 200 people gathered on the site of the former McEvoy Middle School to celebrate the Groundbreaking of the brand new Southwest High School. The new campus will open in August 2009 for the 2009-2010 school year for 1,000 students with a core capacity of 1,200 (includes media center, cafeteria, and gymnasium).

Guest speakers included Superintendent of Schools Sharon Patterson, Board of Education Vice President Tom Hudson, Bibb County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlie Bishop, Southwest High Principal Tyrone Bacon,

Southwest High Sophomore Class President Tycie Adams, and Southwest High Freshman Class President Shauntrail Owens.

Southwest High School dates back to the 1950's with McEvoy and Willingham Junior and Senior High Schools. For more than 50 years, this campus has produced a history of academic success, athletic excellence, and community leadership, including doctors, lawyers, politicians, and professional and USA Olympic athletes.

In 2005, the Macon and Bibb County community showed its desire and support of improving facilities across the Bibb County School District by passing an Education Special Local Option Sales Tax, and two of those projects are the construction of a new Southwest High School and new Ballard-Hudson Middle on the site of the old Southeast High School. The new Southwest will open in August 2009, and students of the former McEvoy Middle will begin attending Ballard-Hudson in January 2008.

The new facilities will contain 21<sup>st</sup> century technology in the classrooms, new career and technical education classrooms, and advanced science labs. An auditorium seating 600 people is being designed to serve the Fine Arts needs of the school and community, and specific design components are being examined to make the new facilities more energy efficient.

“We are truly excited about this opening because the Southwest faculty took an active role in the design of the new facility by examining the curriculum and programmatic needs of their students, as well as visiting sites around the state for design ideas from high-performing schools,” said Superintendent Sharon Patterson. “With the new Southwest, students will attend class under one roof, and the school will feature a prominent and welcoming front entrance for students, faculty, and the community.”

The 2005 Capital Improvement Program will create \$165 million in upgrades, additions, and new schools over the next few years. Also included in the Capital Improvement Program are: a brand new high school in the northwest area of Bibb County, a new Central High School; major renovations at Northeast High School; a major reconstruction of Ingram-Pye Elementary School; a new Ballard-Hudson Middle School; the recently opened Bloomfield Middle; and renovations and upgrades to many other school facilities.



*Southwest High School students (left) and Alumni (right) break ground for the new campus scheduled to open for the 2009-2010 school year.*

