

AROUND THE LAB



Teller Center touts importance of science education

By Elizabeth Campos Rajs

NEWSLINE STAFF WRITER

As a crowd of more than 60 invited guests looked on, Lab Director Emeritus Edward Teller ceremoniously helped put the first shovel into the ground last Thursday for a new K-12 teacher training center named in his honor.

Wearing a hard hat and a dark suit accented with a flag-inspired tie and his trademark black cowboy boots, Teller talked about the importance of science in the last century and how it can be used to improve lives on a global level in the future, notably through vastly improved weather prediction. But science education will be key to future successes.

In general comments following the groundbreaking, Teller suggested that the addition of the education center will help teachers to better educate students in areas of science and math.

"Science has become so big that people are afraid of it," he said.

Teller was praised during the ceremony as a great scientist, statesman and historical figure.

"Not only will this center symbolize how we're going to do K-12 education, but also how Edward Teller is an inspiration to students," said Barry Klein, vice chancellor of research at UC Davis. "I want to see the center live up to the greatness of the man it is named after."

The Edward Teller Education Center (ETEC) is a collaborative effort between UC Davis, the UC Office of the President, the Laboratory and UC Merced. Its mission is to enhance California's K-12 education by providing professional development in science and math for teachers working with participating



JULIE KORHUMMEL/NEWSLINE

Director Emeritus Edward Teller helped break ground on what will eventually be the Edward Teller Education Center, a new K-12 teacher training facility.

school districts within the greater Livermore Tri-Valley area and the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys.

"Dr. Teller feels extraordinarily proud to have his name on this center," said Rick Freeman, chairman of the UC Davis Department of Applied Science. "He has been writing about the importance of science and math education since 1965. I hope we can honor him and his memory for the pride he feels about science, education and the labs."

The new facility will be built next to the Department of Applied Science, just outside the Lab's East Gate entrance. The center, which will be housed in a 3,400-square-foot building, will include a wet laboratory classroom and a computer technology and lecture classroom. The

building is expected to be open by March 1.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Jeff Wadsworth, deputy director for Science and Technology, presented a gift for the new center. It was a poster-sized enlargement of a photo taken in 1959 of two educators visiting the Lab to learn about one of the earliest computers.

"This symbolizes the Lab's scientific depth in computing and the relationship we have had with educators throughout our history," he said. "The Lab will begin its 50th anniversary celebration, and from the Lab's inception in 1952, its history is characterized with our relationship with the University of California. It is very special to us."

Karen Merritt, director of Academic Planning in the

UC Office of the President and representing UC Merced, noted that her campus has not yet broken ground "so I had a little bit of envy this morning."

UC Merced has a strong commitment to partner with UC Davis and Livermore Lab, she said.

"We want to make UC Merced a force in math and science in the San Joaquin Valley," she said. "If you invest in teachers, it shows up in the abilities of their students."

In meeting with educators in the San Joaquin Valley, Merritt said, they have all put improving math and science capability at the top of their lists.

"ETEC has a wonderful role to play," she added.

Fire safety wise



The recent Fire Safety Contest concluded this week with 150 employees receiving smoke alarms and a grand prize winner selected.

Alarms went to the first 150 contestants who correctly identified at least seven of the



JULIE KORHUMMEL/NEWSLINE

Liesl Little receives the Fire Safety Contest's grand prize, a full-sized fire extinguisher, from Capt. Ron Pinto.

fire hazards portrayed in the contest poster. Jim Jackson, head of Hazards Control, randomly drew the grand prize winner from all entries submitted by Nov. 2. The winner is Liesl Little of Electronics Engineering.

The contest poster (above left) was designed to show the 10 most common fire hazards that

employees can cause, according to the LLNL Fire Department. Though some people identified more, the 10 are as follows:

1. Coffee pots left on overnight, or unattended.
2. Cigarettes tossed in bushes or ground cover.
3. Microwave units left on too long or left unattended.
4. Fans/heaters unattended or left on at night.
5. Electrical overloads on multi-outlet power strips.
6. Toasters and other small appliances, such as hot plates, left unattended or on overnight.
7. Paper stacked too close to heater.
8. Flammable liquids not stored in an approved cabinet.
9. BBQ grill too close to tent. (Also note: never put lighter fluid on smoldering coals; and,

when at Lab, be sure to get a permit to use a BBQ grill.)

10. Open flame left unattended.

The contest was part of the Laboratory's ongoing safety awareness effort and was conducted in concert with National Fire Safety Week in October.