



*Construction begins on the new campus in the spring of 1963.*

## Construction Begins

The clearing and grading portion of Phase I at Empire Lakes started in May 1963 in preparation for constructing the first two buildings on the new campus. Throughout its 50-year history, each time an expansion was undertaken, the ubiquitous water, mud, brush, stumps and trees were obstacles that had to be overcome. Donald W. Thompson was awarded the contract for constructing the first two buildings on the campus for a bid price of \$300,180. The footings were poured that same fall and students began occupying the two new buildings in the spring of 1964.



*Dr. Van Loan explains where the new access road needs to go to operator Bob Angel – May 1963.*

*The firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill were the architects who designed the Master Plan for constructing the SWOCC campus. Donald W. Thompson was the general contractor for Phase I of the project.*

