

Beckman High School will serve Irvine kids

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In a ceremonial step toward the building of the first Tustin school district high school in 40 years, officials will conduct a ground-breaking Friday for the campus, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004 and will serve Irvine students. The school site is in Irvine, on Bryan Avenue between Jamboree Road and Culver Drive.

The featured speaker for the 11 a.m. ceremony will be Pat Beckman, daughter of inventor and philanthropist Arnold Beckman, for whom the school will be named. Architectural plans will be displayed and Tustin's Pioneer Middle School Concert Band will perform.

Tustin Unified School District superintendent Peter Gorman notes that the \$54.5 million Beckman High will provide relief for overcrowding in the Tustin and Foothill high schools. The two schools have a combined enrollment of about 4,500, which is 1,000 more than they were designed to accommodate.

Beckman High also is needed to serve Irvine students living in the neighborhood of West Irvine, where students attend Myford and Ladera elementary schools, Pioneer Middle School and Tustin High School.

The new school will have state-of-the-art facilities, such as a performing arts theater, arts, humanities, math and science buildings, a swimming pool and a gymnasium, Gorman said.

"The science classrooms will be especially designed to handle computer-facilitated experiments that can be conducted in a chemistry lab," he said.

A community park, to be built alongside the Beckman campus, will serve residents of both Tustin and Irvine.

The campus was designed by Trittipio and Associates and will be constructed by Douglas E. Barnhart Inc. Trittipio and Associates has designed other schools for

the Tustin district, including Peters Canyon and Tustin Ranch elementary schools. The schools have won awards for excellence in design from the American Institute of Architects.