

Our history

Our roots go back a long way, to 1902, when the Palmerston North Technical School was founded. The school later became the Palmerston North Technical Institute, then the Manawatu Polytechnic, before becoming UCOL in 1998. In 1996 the government provided a \$22 million capital injection to enable the rebuilding and consolidation of the Palmerston North campus on one central city site.

The new campus was officially opened in December 1998 when the polytechnic rebranded as UCOL, reflecting a realignment to better meet the needs of our students, industry and the future of tertiary education in our regions.

UCOL's regional reach was extended in January 2001 when the Wairarapa Regional Polytechnic was incorporated into the college, followed by the integration of Wanganui Regional Community Polytechnic in 1 April 2002.

Whanganui UCOL opened its new, high tech and architecturally innovative campus in February 2008, as New Zealand's newest tertiary campus.