

Thursday, Mar. 20, 2014

Funding Approved for New USU Eastern Central Instruction Building



An architectural rendering of the new \$20 million Central Instruction Building on the Price campus of USU Eastern.

A bright future for Utah State University Eastern was affirmed by the Utah State Legislature March 13 when it voted in favor of funding a new \$20 million central instruction building for the Price campus.

A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for April 25 beginning at 6 p.m. at the building site.

The funding bill, which still must be signed by the governor, comes 11 years after the completion of the college's last major structure, the G.J. Reeves building which houses programs in science and technology.

This new building will literally connect the two structures it sits between, the Reeves and Geary Theater. It will house theater, music, art, criminal justice, and communications and will provide much-needed additional classroom space for general and vocational education.

It is not just a building that the legislature approved, it is also an affirmation of the college's mission to prepare the people who will create and sustain the eastern and southeastern regions of Utah, said USU Eastern Chancellor Joe Peterson.

"This new building will be iconic, a venue of pride for students, faculty and the community," Peterson said. "It is a significant enhancement to our ability to fulfill our mission."

The new building will serve as a linchpin to the college's *Building Vitality Campaign* that seeks much-needed structural upgrades to improve the overall curb appeal of the 75-year-old campus.

And talk about curb appeal.

Located at the entrance of the college, the Central Instructional Building (CIB) will span the curb along 400 North, occupying some 36,000 square feet of space. Its broad and expansive design with ample windows and lighting will serve as a beacon to students, community members and visitors alike.

Peterson's vision and excitement for this new building and its importance to the continuing vitality of the college and region spills over when he describes to students and faculty what to expect in the coming months.

"Our architectural planning is complete, and we have hired a general contractor and construction manager," he said. "During the summer, we will start seeing utilities work and construction staging, and during July, we will see foundations poured."

His assuredness in the details attests to the hours he has pored over the plans over the past four years since becoming USU Eastern's first chancellor. He took the helm in 2010, the same year the former College of Eastern Utah merged with Utah State University.

"When we come back to school next fall, we will see steel and walls starting to rise," he said. "Before we leave for Christmas break, the building will be dried in (that is, it will have a roof and walls) and construction work will proceed on interior spaces during the cold months. By fall term 2015, we will teach classes in our new building!"

Peterson said the college will continue to use the music building and the SAC — the old student activity center — until fall 2015. After that, those buildings will be demolished. A new grassy quad for the college will be planted where the SAC now stands.

"These changes will require us to be adaptive, but our ability to use the music building and SAC during the construction of the new building will save a lot of headaches," he said.

As part of the project, the Geary Theatre will be seismically stabilized and expanded.

“Through coming years, we will revitalize the Geary and make it a fitting partner building for our new building,” he said.

Space planning is still underway for several programs that will need to be relocated. He assured faculty, staff and students impacted by this that they will be involved in the planning.

“When the governor finally signs the legislation and all funding is secured, we will have many people to thank,” Peterson said. “Those will include the members of the regional advisory board, USU President Stan Albrecht and the administration in Logan, Sen. David Hinkins and other legislative friends and the many people who have donated to the building's funding.”

Related link:

[Utah State University Eastern](#)

Contact: Dr. Joe Peterson, 435-613-5220; joe.peterson@usu.edu

Writer: John DeVilbiss, 435-797-1358; john.devilbiss@usu.edu

