

10-23-1993

10/23/1993 - Buzzard Renovation Project Moves Forward.pdf

University Marketing and Communications

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1993

Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "10/23/1993 - Buzzard Renovation Project Moves Forward.pdf" (1993). 1993. 750.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1993/750

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Press Releases at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in 1993 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

93-295

October 23, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BUZZARD RENOVATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

CHARLESTON, IL--Today's announcement by Gov. Jim Edgar that the Illinois Capital has released \$11.3 million for the rehabilitation and expansion of Eastern Illinois University's Buzzard Hall moves the university one step closer in boosting its efforts in training teachers and improving university service and outreach.

The project will convert the 35-year-old Buzzard facility into the first technologically "smart" building that provides state-of-the-art instructional technology, according to Mahmood Butt, chairman of Eastern's secondary education department, who is heading the central committee for the renovation project.

Buzzard houses six academic departments of the College of Education and Professional Studies, as well as the journalism department, Student Publications and the Radio and Television Center and broadcast stations, WEIU FM and WEIU TV.

Improvements to the building will include remodeling and expanding classroom facilities, faculty offices, instructional materials center and enlarging the Reading Center, which provides tutorial services to all Eastern students.

-more-

FILE COPY

A model Science Laboratory for teaching science to elementary school students will be added. Each faculty office will be provided computer work stations to use the instructional and research tools of the emerging information age.

A two-level addition encompassing more than 14,000 square feet will also be constructed to meet program needs.

New heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will be installed and the building will also be made more accessible to persons with disabilities with the construction of an elevator and installation of a chair lift in the northwest stairwell, providing easier access to the second floor.

Major renovation work is expected to begin next spring and is anticipated to be completed in three years.

Butt said that although Eastern's College of Education and Professional Studies produces the second largest number of teachers in Illinois, it has lacked the technological facilities that characterize leading colleges of education.

He said the addition of a 350-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art teleconferencing facilities, two electronic classrooms and a central control room that will serve as an electronic nerve center for distance learning will help the college meet the needs of students into the 21st century.

"The development of instructional technology facilities that include electronic classrooms will allow us to connect the College of Education and Professional Studies with a number of

elementary, middle and high school sites in east central Illinois.

"Professional preparation of future teachers is becoming more site-based and competency oriented. This clinical component of teacher education suggests the development of and collaboration with professional development schools. The instructional and administrative staffs of the schools will become partners with EIU professors and together they will chart the course of qualitative improvement of schools and teacher education," Butt said.

He said the technological resources of the information age provide a quantum leap in blending the medium with the message.

"The technology for dynamic interactive multi-media distance learning has increased the possibilities of efficient delivery of educational services," he added.

Butt said the new technology will also allow for data sharing and research in education. "For example, K-12 teachers and students from participating professional development schools will be able to communicate with Eastern faculty via computer and will have access to Booth Library's computer network."