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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BOARD APPROVES EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

CHARLESTON, IL--Bids for new physical fitness equipment for Eastern Illinois University's soon-to-open Student Recreation Center--Addition to Lantz Gymnasium were awarded today (July 18) by the Board of Governors Universities at its meeting in Springfield.

Construction on the \$6 million facility, approved by Eastern students in a November 1989 referendum, began last summer and is expected to be completed before Eastern begins fall semester classes August 21.

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The successful bidders were Randal Midwest of West Chicago for 10 StairMasters and a Gravitron costing \$27,595 and Fitness Concepts of Fairview Heights for eight lower body stations, five back/abdominal stations, eight upper body stations, four arm stations, a calf machine, two leg machines and a chest machine and multi-station master trainer totalling \$65,410. University purchases of \$25,000 or more require Board approval.

StairMasters are programmable climbing machines that strengthen and condition the heart and a variety of lower body muscle groups. The Gravitron is used for pull up and bar dip exercises that develop and strengthen every major upper body muscle group.

Dave Dutler, director of Eastern's Division of Recreational Sports, and Ed Adams, mechanical engineer at the Physical Plant, who recommended equipment for the new facility, said they were especially pleased that the bids were competitive and lower than expected.

Dave Spence of Rettberg-Gruber Architects of Champaign, construction coordinator, said, "We are very close to getting the building completed. We are now in the process of finishing exterior walkways and entrances and laying the rubberized jogging track."

Dutler said, "I am very pleased with the progress of the facility. I think the students are going to be pleasantly surprised. It will give them something they can be proud of and can identify with."

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He said the Student Recreation Center will be equipped with state-of-the-art aerobic fitness, body-part, and free-weight equipment that will give students, faculty and staff versatility in their workouts.

In addition to the equipment purchases approved by the Board, other equipment, costing under \$25,000, that has been purchased for the facility includes treadmills, Nordic tracks, programmable Life cycles and Life rower, Schwinn Air Dynes, recumbent exercise cycle, and a variety of benches, barbells, free-weights, racks and weight machines. Scoreboards also have been purchased for the Center's six basketball courts.

The 70,000-square-foot, air-conditioned building will house free-weight, aerobic and body-part machine areas; a large multi-use gymnasium with wood flooring that will provide space for multiple basketball, volleyball and badminton courts; two smaller gymnasiums (one is enclosed); up to three multi-purpose areas for dancing, martial arts, and small aerobic sessions, and a 1/8-mile jogging track.

The Student Recreation Center, which will support Eastern's informal sports and intramural programs, will also contain offices for the Division of Recreational Sports with an information counter and lobby area with tables and chairs, lockers and vending machines.

The University plans a dedication ceremony for the new facility on September 12 when the Board of Governors Universities trustees will be meeting on the Eastern campus.