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LINDENWOD

Construction, high-tech have students lining up at LU

The growth at Lindenwood University doesn't appear to be slowing down.

The residential population at Lindenwood is up more than 300 students over this time last year, and school officials acknowledge that the groundswell of interest in living on-campus means that spots in LU's new residence halls this fall will be going like hotcakes.

Two new residence halls, at a cost of more than \$5 million apiece, are currently under construction and will be occupied in the fall. Each will have 180 beds.

Housing director Michelle Giesseman said the two new residence halls will be predominantly for freshmen and sophomores and will go "on a first-come, first-served basis. It's important to make a housing commitment early if someone wants a spot," she said.

By this fall, all traditional residence halls will have state-of-the-art communications technology for students, including internet access, a new phone system with voice mail and cable TV access, said President Dennis Spellmann. That same technology bundle, Spellmann said, will be spread throughout the campus to most existing facilities in a multimillion-dollar upgrade.

"It's an exciting project," Spellmann said. "I think our students will be pleased. But that's only one part of the improvements we will see in the fall."

LU plans a major facelift of Cobbs Hall, a 120-bed men's residence hall. Cobbs, built in 1950, will get a new front entrance, opening toward the two new residence halls and the new campus center. In addition, the lounge will be renovated and Cobbs will get a new roof to make the hall's architecture more consistent with the rest of the campus.

Spellmann said the annual increases in student population cut across all age groups. He said Lindenwood is planning for additional housing opportunities for married students and single-parent families.

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