

Housing Ground-Breaking Ceremony Remarks
Friday, November 18, 2011
Area of Etter Health Center and Water Tower

Thank you to everyone for being here. Throughout its 140 year history, Shippensburg University has had a number of milestones.

And today marks the official start for yet another Ship milestone. In just a few moments, we will break ground for what may be the largest single project in the university's history — and it rivals the growth and building projects of the early to mid-1960s (when the university built five of the current residence halls as well as Ezra Lehman Memorial Library and Reisner Dining Hall) and the early 1970s (when the university built Franklin Science Center, the CUB, Dauphin Humanities Center and Mowrey Hall and developed the athletic complex and Heiges Field House).

Approximately 35 years after the last residence hall, Seavers Apartments, was built, we are already well underway on the two new buildings that will grace this site and another building that will be near Reed Operations Center. These semi-suite and full-suite facilities will greatly enhance the current living accommodations and provide students with a variety of living-learning opportunities.

We expect this first phase will be completed and ready for student occupants in January 2013. We'll then begin to tear down some of the current residence halls as we begin the next two phases of the project that will be completed in 2014 and 2015. The total estimated cost of the project is \$200 million.

I must highlight the fact that students approved the project and the cost will be paid for through their housing fees. In addition, I want to compliment members of the Shippensburg University Student Services, Inc. for their leadership role in this major effort on behalf of the students. And, of course, we're very happy to have an outstanding national firm — Campus Apartments — be part of this major change to our campus.

Everything we do at Shippensburg is for and about our students. These new residence halls will further enhance our nationally recognized excellence by providing our students with additional out-of-class experiences in outstanding facilities in which they will live and, as importantly, learn. We're excited about this opportunity to meet their needs and what this means to the future of Shippensburg University.

Let me now introduce B. Michael Schaul, chair of the university's council of trustees.

Michael Schaul Remarks

Thanks, Michael. Next up is Darrell Miller, president of SUSSI, Inc. fiscal office and, for the next four years, is one of the key individuals spearheading this project.

Darrell Miller Remarks

Thanks, Darrell. Our next speaker is Dan Bernstein, executive vice president and CIO of Campus Apartments. As I said earlier, we're very happy and proud that Campus Apartments is partnering with SUSSI in a project that will have such an important impact on the university and our students.

Dan Bernstein Remarks

Thanks, Dan. Now please welcome Dr. Roger Serr, vice president for student affairs.

Roger Serr Remarks

Thanks, Roger. This project, like everything we do at Ship, is geared toward our students and to provide them with a campus that is conducive to learning and living. They also play an important role in the decisions that affect them so I'm happy that we now have Comfort Dixon, president of the Student Association.

Comfort Dixon Remarks

Thanks, Comfort. Before we actually break ground, I want to invite everyone here to join us for the grand opening of Phase One of the CUB immediately after this ceremony. At the CUB you will see another wonderful project for our students and I invite you to take a guided or self-guided tour (meeting at the CUB Information Desk) and enjoy some refreshments in the Raider Lounge 5 area. Thank you.