DUC Gutted

VFTH

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Have you seen Downing University Center lately? It’s literally been gutted over the past several months and is now being put back together.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham takes us inside for a tour of the transformation in progress.

 “This is a student led initiative to do a full renovation of this project. Been something we’ve talked about for years.”

Construction crews are spread throughout the four floors of Downing University Center.

 “This is the largest construction project that Western has ever done and its right in the heart of campus.”

A new grand entrance is taking shape across from Diddle Arena and inside, the trademark staircases are gone.

 “Not only have we removed the spiral staircases, we are going to be removing the next level of flooring above that area so when you walk in the building on the first floor your gonna be able to see three levels up.”

Balconies outside Fresh Food Company will add a few more hundred feet on the Avenue of Champions side of the project.

 “That’s gonna allow patrons, students, faculty and staff to go outside and eat, if we have a parade or ballgame, gonna be a fun place for people to go.”

In addition to a new WKU store, a new Fresh Food Company and lots of meeting spaces, there’s something else to look forward to.

 “On the other end of the building we’ve added a full service starbucks …and added a balcony for the starbucks coffee.”

The state-of-the-art "DUC" renovation project will unveil an innovative space that will benefit the entire WKU community.

“It serves several purposes for students and campus population so we’re very excited about what’s ahead and the final product.”

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

The newly renovated Fresh Foods Company and the WKU Store are set to open in the Fall of 2013 while the entire project won’t be completed until the Fall of 2014.

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