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TOP STORY

## New Ogden College Hall set to welcome WKU students

AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 1 hr ago





When students start classes at Western Kentucky University on Monday, they'll get to experience new laboratory, studying and common area space in Ogden College Hall.

Cheryl Stevens, dean of the Ogden College of Science and Engineering, hopes the 4-floor building will help make WKU a destination for science education.

"The future of science is collaborative and interdisciplinary," she said, which is reflected throughout the building's design with several collaborative spaces, she added.

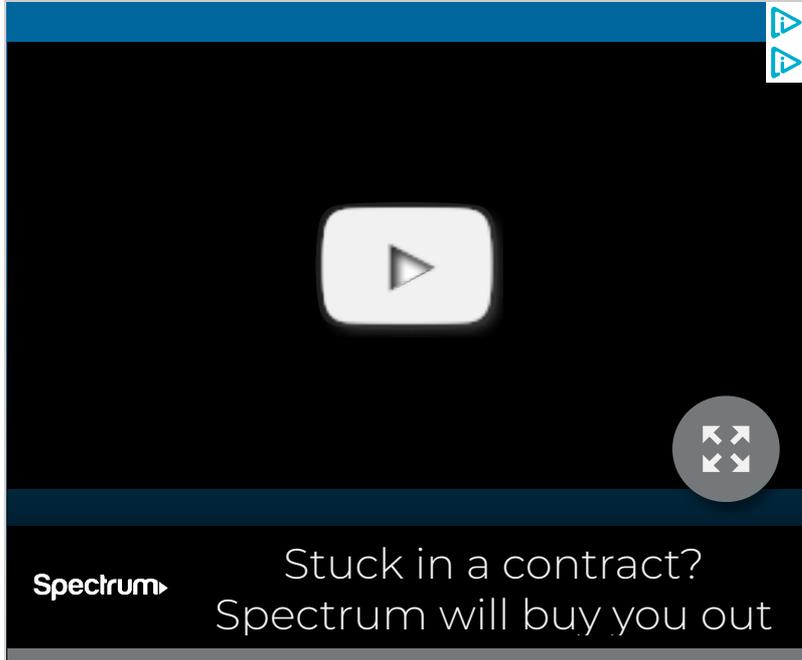
Of the building's roughly 80,000 gross square feet, more than half is devoted to laboratory space. It features more than 30 labs in space used by the university's biology, chemistry and physics departments. Extensive lab space was a priority, Stevens said.

"Money for labs doesn't come so easily," she said.

The building also features a 300-seat auditorium, a computer lab, an adjacent student success center for advising services and office space for the dean.

The new building sits on the site of the demolished Thompson Complex North Wing, a building that dated to the 1960s and needed an upgrade.

Stevens noted that, compared to science buildings across the U.S., this one comes in at the low end in terms of cost per square foot.



The project's total cost amounts to \$48 million, according to previous Daily News coverage.

While under construction, the lost space was tough on students and faculty, and it forced the college to move some classes to WKU's South Campus on Nashville Road.

Bryan Russell, WKU's chief facilities officer, has said the new building has long been needed.

"This project is replacing a 1960-constructed facility that had become very tired," he said in December 2016 in a previous Daily News article. Funding for the project came from the state.

"All the money that's going into this new project is for the students, which I think is really important," he said.

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## Aaron Mudd

Education reporter. Covers education and related issues, focusing primarily on the Bowling Green and Warren County public school districts and Western Kentucky University.

