LeMoyne-Owen College Breaks Ground on $13.5 Million Residence Hall

The 87,000 square-foot dormitory will house up to 336 students.

MEMPHIS, TN (Sept. 20, 2012) – LeMoyne-Owen College’s enrollment has doubled in the past six years. This fall’s enrollment is nearly 1,200 students compared to just over 500 in 2006.

To meet the ever-increasing demand for on-campus housing, college officials, board members and alumni earlier today broke ground on a new residence hall that will house up to 336 students beginning in the fall of 2013. The new dormitory will be located on the South Memphis campus at the corner of Neptune and Saxon.

LeMoyne-Owen College secured a $13.5 million loan to construct the new residence hall through the Department of Education’s Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program. According to www.ed.gov, the program provides HBCUs with access to capital financing or refinancing for the repair, renovation, and construction of classrooms, libraries, laboratories, dormitories, instructional equipment, and research instrumentation. The assistance comes through the issuance of federal guarantees on the full payment of principal and interest on qualified bonds, the proceeds of which are used for loans.

“This federal program is a prime example of our government’s commitment to not only educating its citizens, but also to preserving the nation’s history,” LeMoyne-Owen College president Johnnie B. Watson said.

The four-story dormitory will provide students with modern accommodations, a state-of-the-art computer center, laundry facilities and recreational amenities. According to President Watson, students are already excited. “I’ve had students walk up to me saying that they plan to pay their dorm deposit early.”

The college currently has about 200 dormitories. “This new residence hall will not only increase our on-campus housing capacity, but also attract more new students,” Watson added.

The project’s general contractor is W.G. Yates & Sons Construction and the architects are Chasm Architecture, LLC. AFRAM Corporation will serve as project manager.
New Residence Hall Project Details

Location
Neptune & Saxon

Square Footage
87,000

Capacity
336 beds

Amenities
Computer Center
2 Student Lounges
4 Laundry Rooms
Game Room

Project Cost
$13.5 Million

Scheduled Opening
Fall of 2013

Architects
Chasm Architecture, LLC

Contractor
W.G. Yates & Sons Construction - AFRAM, Project Manager

Financing
$13.5 million loan through the Department of Education Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program that provides low-cost capital to finance improvements to the infrastructure of the nation’s HBCUs.