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CBU will construct \$12 million addition to science center



BY MICHAEL SHEFFIELD

Christian Brothers University is set to break ground on a new 27,000-square-foot science center that will connect to the school's existing 37,000-square-foot science facility.

The project is budgeted at \$12 million, which will be funded primarily by private donors and foundations.

The center will contain four new labs, four classrooms, a computer lab and new offices for biology and chemistry faculty members. The project is being designed by Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects, which has designed new buildings for CBU since the 1980s. Montgomery Martin Contractors is the general contractor.

Bill Ferguson, who is heading the design team for Askew Nixon, says the delicacy of equipment in the existing science building presented some challenges with the project.

"They've got scientific instruments that need to be secured and could be affected by earth-moving

machines, so we built in a courtyard to reduce that," Ferguson says. "We're building the new building and once that's completed, we'll renovate the old building, but the new one couldn't immediately be adjacent."

Johnny Holmes, dean of the school of sciences at CBU, says the school needed to add more labs and student space because of growth in the science department.

"We're close to being full capacity with our present facilities and we've had strong interest in our pre-med areas," Holmes says.

The science school currently has 220 students enrolled. That number has been steady for the last few years, Holmes says.

"We've been extremely proud of our ability to get students in the pre-med area," Holmes says. "We've had 91% acceptance into medical schools and 87% into pharmacy school. We're just starting, but we have other plans that we want to put in motion."

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