

# TOWERS: COMING SOON

AS THE RENOVATION ON NORTH AND SOUTH TOWERS NEARS COMPLETION, EXCITEMENT IS GROWING ON THE CONCORD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FOR THE SEPTEMBER GRAND RE-OPENING CELEBRATION.





**F**or students living on campus, staying in a residence hall is a big part of the college experience. The newly renovated North and South Towers offer an exciting opportunity in residence hall life for Concord students.

The more than \$16 million in extensive renovations to the Towers residence halls is nearing completion with a Grand Re-Opening Celebration planned in September.

South Towers Resident Director Eric Jewell has been taking parents on tours of the renovated residence hall rooms. He said that when they walk into a room, they say, "Wow! This is really nice."

"They generally seem excited about it," he said.

Jewell is also hearing positive comments from students.

"They really like the new bathrooms and are really happy about the air conditioning," he said.

Khalilah Workfield is the resident director for North Towers. She said that alumni returning to campus for a visit are impressed with the changes to the exterior of the residence halls.

"They compliment the buildings. They like the windows," she said. "It's a huge difference for them."

The new carpeting, foyer sinks and enhanced internet connection capabilities are receiving high marks from the students, Workfield said.

Consisting of 173,500 square feet, the Towers were constructed in 1968. The project to renovate the facilities was kicked off in a ceremony on April 22, 2016 in conjunction with Concord's Founders' Day Festival. All rooms and public spaces in North Tower were completely renovated by student check-in day for second semester on Jan. 8, 2017. Project work on the top four floors of South Tower, west side, began Jan. 2, 2017 in anticipation of the residence hall being fully occupied upon the students' return from summer break in August 2017.

"Concord University is excited to provide 333 newly renovated student rooms for official opening this fall. The building occupancy will be set at 658," stated Rick Dillon, Vice President of Administration and Associate Dean of Students.

"The Towers renovation and construction project began in earnest in April 2016, and will



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successfully conclude this September 2017," Dillon said. "All student rooms are, or will be completely renovated by Aug. 5, 2017 and occupancy ready for fall check-in."

Dillon explained the renovations that have been made to the buildings.

"Each complex roof has been replaced including the fitness center. The original exterior building walls have been removed and replaced by an Exterior Insulation and Finish System



(EFIS). All Towers complex historic windows have been replaced with double pane and insulated windows," he said.

"Room heating devices have been upgraded to packaged thermal air conditioning units (PTACs)," he added. "Each student suite has an entirely new bathroom and foyer sink. Every student room has received new carpet and laminate wood floors and every room has been painted."

"All residents will be made more comfortable in their new surroundings and impressed by up to date technology systems added as part of the overall upgrades," Dillon said. "Now each student can access the internet by direct or wireless high speed connection."

Along with renovations to the student rooms and the exterior of the buildings, other items are part of the project.

"In addition to residence hall room and exterior envelope enhancement, a large back-up generator has been added to bring light and



North & South Towers during original construction in 1968.

heat whenever an emergency shuts off power to the campus. Carbon monoxide detectors have been integrated into the existing smoke and heat detector systems as required by new West Virginia law," Dillon said.

"Several rooms have been modified to meet current ADA law which will allow us to house more disabled students in a quality setting suited to their particular disability," he said.

Silling Associates, based in Charleston, W.Va., is the architectural firm for the renovation project. The general contractor is Paramount Builders located in St. Albans, W.Va.

The Grand Re-Opening Celebration for the renovated North and South Towers residence halls will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017. A schedule of events for the celebration will be posted on Concord's website at [www.concord.edu](http://www.concord.edu)