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## SEHS building nearly ready for occupancy

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Students, faculty and staff soon will be able to admire the state-of-the-art facilities in the new School of Education and Human Services building. Work on the building is almost complete, and the move-in is scheduled for sometime in mid-August.

"Right now, the project is about 98 percent complete," said Janet Hepburn, manager of Capital Planning and Design at OU. "At this stage, we're working on finishing the landscaping, touch-up painting and cleanup. Some fencing is being installed around the Lowry Center playground area, and the parking lot on that side is being striped. All the bulk furniture is being brought in, though the chairs have yet to be delivered. Some of the other things that remain to be installed are the slate tile in the front lobby and the audio-visual equipment."

The **School of Education and Human Services** will experience a tremendous gain in space and amenities when it moves into the new four-story building, located east of Varner Hall. SEHS currently occupies almost 28,000 square feet in offices spread over portions of all five floors of O'Dowd Hall, and the Lowry Center is based in converted chicken coops on the southeast corner of campus near Varner House. The new building has slightly over 132,000 square feet and includes 11 general-purpose classrooms, counseling rooms and viewing labs, an educational resource Library, and faculty and staff offices.

"Faculty and staff from the School of Education and Human Services are very excited about moving in here from both a functional and aesthetic standpoint," Hepburn said. "We've had a need for classroom space and the V-shaped atrium is undoubtedly the most unique feature of the building.

"The building also has great potential to be the signature building of our campus. The glass front on the east side is beautiful, and the way the building was designed to fit into the contour of the land is another unique feature."

J.M. Olson Corporation of St. Clair Shores began construction on the building in April 2001. The project cost, shared by the university and the State of Michigan, is about \$31.5 million.

### SUMMARY

Students, faculty and staff soon will be able to admire the state-of-the-art facilities in the new School of Education and Human Services building, which is almost complete. Faculty and staff will begin moving in sometime in mid-August. The SEHS will experience a tremendous gain in space and amenities when it moves into the new four-story building, located east of Varner Hall.

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