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Illinois Wesleyan to Construct $16 Million Classroom Building

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Artist's rendering of the new classroom building

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The Illinois Wesleyan Board of Trustees approved construction of a new main classroom building that will be completed by the fall semester of 2013. The nearly $16 million building is a key priority of the University's $125 million *Transforming Lives* fund raising campaign.

"We are indebted to the many alumni and friends here in McLean County and across the nation who have made this important project possible," said President Dick Wilson. "This is our second major building project this year; we're currently finishing construction on a new $2 million entry and interior renovation of areas within the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art. Both projects are being funded exclusively through private gifts to the University".

Artist's rendering of The Ames School of Art Rotunda

The 48,700 square foot classroom facility is envisioned as a signature building that will anchor the north end of the Eckley Quadrangle, where Sheean Library has stood since 1967. In addition to state-of-the-art classrooms, study areas and research spaces, the building will be home to the departments of Business Administration and Economics. An important building feature will be the commencement plaza, which will be the backdrop each spring for commencement ceremonies on the quad. With the Sheean Library teardown completed over the summer, the start of construction on the new building will begin in about a month.

The **Ames School of Art project**, which began last May, should be completed before year's end. Long-time benefactors Chuck '50 and Jay Ames '49 funded this project. Once opened, the new two-story glass rotunda and expanded entry will feature a hanging glass sculpture by noted Arizona artist Lyle London.

The $125 million *Transforming Lives* fundraising campaign was announced in May 2009 and is scheduled to conclude in 2014. To date Illinois Wesleyan alumni and friends have contributed more than $94 million toward the campaign goal.

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