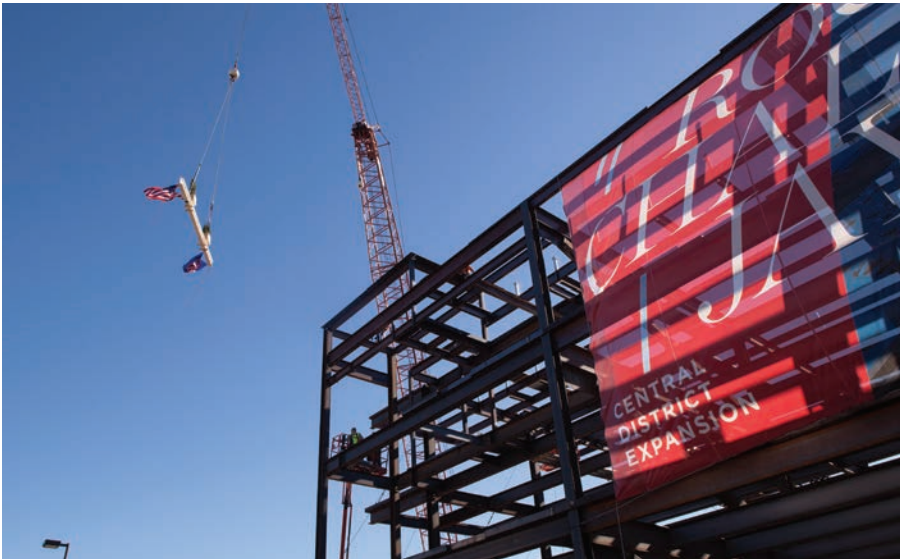


# UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CENTRAL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

Project Update: **WINTER 2017**

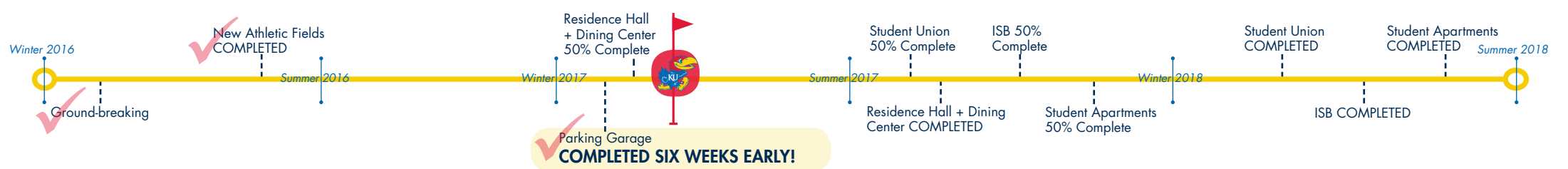


## Inside:

- ★ *In Her Own Words:* University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little
- ★ "Topping Out" Celebration for New Integrated Science Building



## Project Progress Tracker



## In Her Own Words: University of Kansas Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little

**Q:** One of your key initiatives during the past seven years has been the redevelopment of KU’s Central District. What are your thoughts on how this project has unfolded over the past two years?

The Central District is the largest and most complex development project KU has undertaken in nearly a century. Not surprisingly, it has taken a tremendous amount of work from individuals across the university to make this project a reality. So when I reflect on the process, more than anything I am appreciative of everyone who has worked on the project. We are essentially doing a decade’s worth of construction in about three years, which has created a heavy



workload and some tight timelines for our entire team. But I think we all realize this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fundamentally transform the university, and as a result, we have approached this project with incredible passion.

*“The University of Kansas has bold aspirations to be recognized as a top-tier public research university. This is the inspiration for our strategic plan—fittingly titled Bold Aspirations—which has guided our efforts to transform KU during the past five years. Bold Aspirations focuses on six key goals and has resulted in tremendous change across the university. This change has not always been easy, but as we enter the fifth year of the plan, the improvements to our university are undeniable.”*

**Q:** How do you think the Central District project will impact the campus in the future from a teaching, research, student life, and student housing perspective?

The Central District will benefit virtually every member of our community and every aspect of our mission. For our students, the district means new ways of interacting with instructors and classmates, close integration of their undergraduate studies with research activity, and new ways to enjoy their time outside the classroom. For our researchers, the Central District means state-of-the-art facilities designed to spawn multidisciplinary research and collaboration among KU’s research centers and campuses. More broadly, the Central District will benefit our entire university by helping us recruit new scholars, pursue new funding opportunities, foster technology-based startups and enhance the visibility of KU nationally.

**Q:** In September you were able to participate in a site tour of the ISB and student housing portions of the project. What struck you most during the tour?

I was struck by the sheer size of the



project! I had seen hundreds of blueprints and renderings of the Central District during the previous months, but you can’t comprehend how large the project is until you are physically on site and surrounded by the new structures. The other thing that struck me during the tour is how beautifully

we have integrated the new Central District structures into our existing campus and our landscape. Once complete, the new district will feel new and modern while also honoring KU’s history and complementing the natural splendor of Mount Oread.

**Q:** How would you like your Chancellorship to be viewed in 10 years’ time? What, for you, would success look like?

Our mission is to educate leaders, build healthy communities and make discoveries that change the world—and we have made tremendous progress in all of these areas. Over the past eight years, we have achieved NCI designation for our KU Cancer Center, created a new admission process for incoming students, revamped financial aid, expanded our medical center in Wichita and Salina, and completed a record-setting comprehensive fundraising campaign. And certainly, the Central District redevelopment project ranks among our most important achievements. For me, and I suspect for many of us at KU, success means that we contribute to the ongoing



Lab mock-up inside the Integrated Science Building (ISB)

## “Topping Out” Celebration for New Integrated Science Building

On Thursday, November 10, 2016, University of Kansas (KU) Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little hosted a celebratory “topping out” ceremony for the new Integrated Science Building (ISB) component of the 55-acre Central District Development.

The event included the signing of the “final beam” by Chancellor Gray-Little and other key University and project team members, a short program, lunch, and the raising of the beam (flip to the front of the newsletter for event photos).

During Chancellor Gray-Little’s opening remarks, she noted that this Central District project “will fundamentally transform [the] University and the way we educate leaders and conduct research.”

Once complete, the 280,000 square foot ISB will include spaces for teaching, learning, and interdisciplinary research in physics, chemistry, molecular biosciences, and related fields.

 Check Out Our  
Construction Progress

Visit the project webcams at:  
[oxblue.com/open/clarkconstruction/kucddp](http://oxblue.com/open/clarkconstruction/kucddp)  
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