

## News Release

# Centennial Hall Offers UMC Students the Latest in Apartment-style Living

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Crookston, MN—The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) has a new residence hall that compliments both the historical architecture of the campus and follows a nationwide trend to apartment-style campus living. Centennial hall has taken shape on the campus landscape since the groundbreaking ceremony held on September 30, 2005. Over that time, excitement about the 84-bed facility has been growing, and in April, UMC students will have the chance to claim one of the new living spaces for occupancy in fall 2006.

Architect for the project is Kerry H. Peuser of Michael J. Burns Architects, Ltd of Moorhead, MN. "It will connect to the Westside apartments and share a commons area that will house the residential life offices, a conference room, and student lounge," Peuser explains. The individual apartments have two bedrooms with a total of four beds, a private bath, walk in closets, full kitchen, and while the facility will be wireless, each room will have seven network connections. "What students like even more," said Gary Willhite, UMC's director of residential life, "is the fact that these apartments also have dishwashers." The apartment-style living gives students the opportunity for more privacy, convenience, and the chance to have a place that feels like their own.

Project manager for the facility is Ruann Miller of Community Contractors, Inc of Grand Forks, ND. She oversees the schedule and coordination of the project. "We have worked closely with the architects and get all those involved together every other week to ensure everyone is kept abreast of progress," Miller said. "Right now the project is right on schedule with completion slated for early July."

Centennial hall, built during the yearlong celebration of the centennial of the campus, reflects the school's colors with its gold colored brick and maroon hip roof. That color theme also shows up in the interior's use of maroon and gold in the carpets and other furnishings. A theme that is central to the recently completed Student Center as well.

The new residence hall will be air-conditioned making it appealing for use in the summer for conferences and reunions. Updates are being made to the connecting Westside apartment building to make it match the new facility inside and out. "This building is an exciting new living option for our students, and along with the Student Center, UMC is a great place for students to create their own community and enjoy campus life," said Chancellor, Charles Casey.

"Centennial Hall will be a symbol of the progressive look of the University campus," said Peuser. "It is very visible from the highway and will provide a positive image and first impression for the campus. The building's design is intended to blend into the historic character of the campus by intentionally resembling other established buildings on campus." Peuser goes on to say, "Centennial Hall will have a 'nostalgic' appearance, but yet will be very modern with state-of-the-art safety, security, and technology features to compliment the convenience of apartment living."

Next fall, students will move into Centennial Hall, and with the increase in applications UMC is experiencing, Willhite is confident the new hall will enhance campus life for many and provide the latest in living options for students. UMC is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution and a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. To see the new residence hall, please visit [www.UMCrookston.edu](http://www.UMCrookston.edu) and click on Centennial hall.

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