

## The Future of EKU: Campus Revitalization

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Eastern Kentucky University has several projects in the planning stages for the Campus Revitalization in the next year including plans for a new ped way and for a student center in Kit Carson Commons, an EKU affiliated property, both set to break ground in 2021.

The Department of Facilities Management has multiple projects in the planning stages to further revitalize EKU. These projects include a new ped way crossing over the Eastern Bypass to make travel easier for the students and staff traveling that way, as well as a student center to be created from Kit Carson Commons, which is a property affiliated but not owned by EKU. This will be the first project the department will be able to plan from the beginning with a property not directly owned by EKU. Both projects are still in the early stages with groundbreaking potential in 2021. Because they are still in the planning stages, it is too early to determine whether these projects will face delays due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Brian Wilcox, associate vice president of capital construction & project administration, leads these to ensure that every project completed is beneficial to the EKU community. Kelly Crocker, EKU project manager, works with Brian to follow the projects through each step to completion. Kelly is an architect who works with the department to create initial plans and designs all the way through the hiring stage and into breaking ground.

Kelly believes the most important project currently in the planning stages at EKU is the ped way across the Eastern Bypass. He believes this will impact students who travel from the Business Center and Keene as well as other buildings across the Bypass and make it safer and more convenient for travel and parking. The projects with Kit Carson Commons is different

because it is only EKU affiliated and is a good opportunity for campus to gain a student center. This project is in the very early stages so plans have not been made in regard to what the student center will be used for.

Further renovations to campus facilities are currently in the developing stages at EKU being led by Denise Harris, Manager of Space Planning Utilization. Members of her team are currently working on renovations to several dorms and upgrades to the garden and greenery on campus as well as further renovations in Powell and Case. Several of these renovations are planned to be completed by the end of 2021 school year with more projects to begin in the new year.

Brian Wilcox, Kelly Crocker, Denise Harris, and other members of the Facilities Department are working to ensure that campus is kept up to date and as an effective and enriching environment to succeed in through these projects and the ones completed this past year. These projects and renovations will reflect the needs on campus and the department will continue to plan and revitalize to maintain the community.

Eastern Kentucky University has several construction projects underway for the Campus Revitalization in the 2020 school year including further renovations to current buildings and plans for new facilities. Completed projects in the 2019-2020 academic year include updates to the Powell building, and the construction and opening of the new Rec Center.

Construction projects such as those have been in development since 2014 under a five-year plan created by members of the Facilities Management Department. Brian Wilcox has supervised and initiated these to assist in the “success and solutions” at EKU. There are plans for several projects to be completed in 2021 such as the ped way and student center that will uphold and further improve the aesthetic and practicality of life at EKU for students and staff.