

# POWERHOUSE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

May 14, 2018 at 9:31 am | By [Ryan Silvola \(mailto:rsilvola@beloitdailynews.com\)](mailto:rsilvola@beloitdailynews.com)



Rendering provided This rendering shows what Beloit College's Powerhouse facility will look like when completed. The student center will feature a fieldhouse, pool, meeting and event spaces, a lecture hall and more.

BELOIT - Beloit College is set to hire a director for its Powerhouse facility by the end of the month after conducting candidate interviews last week.



Powerhouse project manager Dan Schooff, chief of staff and secretary of the college, said the college has narrowed its candidate search to three contenders. Dean of Students Christina Klawitter said at the end of March the college had about 70 candidates apply for the position.

While the administration is at work to find a director, construction of the facility continues. College President Scott Bierman said the project is now in its reconstruction stage. He's confident the building will be ready to open in the fall of 2019.

The Powerhouse is a \$38 million project at the site of the decommissioned Blackhawk Generating Station on the Rock River. It is being converted into a 120,000-square-foot student center. Bierman said the college has enough funds to pay for all of the program elements within the project.

As for construction itself, when the college took over the building from Alliant Energy earlier this year, the first major step has been installing the pool, Bierman said.

"Right now we have the better part of an outdoor pool that will hopefully be an indoor pool," Bierman said.

Crews have removed a wall which separated the east from the west sides of the pool. Once new support structures are in place and a new roof is installed, he said crews will begin to dig the pool.

Tim Jones, chief communications and integrated marketing officer, said by the beginning of 2019, the building will be totally enclosed, new floors in place, and the steel of the new turf fieldhouse will be underway.

Bierman said the new facility will include a pool, fieldhouse, an indoor track, fitness center, event, meeting and classroom spaces available for rent by the public, a lecture hall which seats 160 people, a cafe and decks overlooking the river and riverwalk. The City of Beloit also contributed \$1.51 million for an accompanying 800-foot riverwalk behind the conference and student center through a state transportation grant.

"All of this (besides the fieldhouse) is within the walls of one of the most historic buildings in the state," Bierman said.

He said the facility will connect the Beloit College community with each other as well as the city.

"After all, our college is two years older than the state, and so it just feels so great to have this building that looks like it's meant to be a part of the campus becoming a central gathering point for Beloit College and a place where the City of Beloit can connect to the college," Bierman said.

Bierman notes the project wouldn't have been possible without all of the college's community partners, including the City of Beloit and Alliant Energy.

Plans for the project started in 2010, and Beloit College has avoided having to use any tuition dollars on the project to bring the college a state-of-the-art student center to life.