



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Capital Development Board

NEWS RELEASE

PAT QUINN – GOVERNOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2010

CDB-06-10

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Contract awarded for University of Illinois’ Lincoln Hall construction project

***Historic campus building to receive \$38.6 million upgrade,
construction slated to begin in March***

URBANA – The Capital Development Board (CDB), which manages all state-funded, non-road construction projects, today announced that a contract has been awarded and construction will soon begin on the extensive rehabilitation of the historic Lincoln Hall on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Williams Brothers Construction, Inc. of Peoria is the contractor after submitting the low bid of \$38,621,000 from among ten firms submitting bids. Construction should begin by the end of March, weather permitting, with scheduled completion by the start of classes in August 2012.

“The Lincoln Hall project is funded by the *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction plan proposed by Governor Pat Quinn and passed by the Illinois General Assembly, and will provide 350 badly needed construction jobs while keeping this historic landmark a vital part of the campus community,” said CDB Executive Director Jim Riemer.

The project will include the extensive renovation and reconfiguration of Lincoln Hall, including upgrades to the climate control, electrical, lighting, plumbing and fire alarm systems. The new reconfiguration will have most classrooms on the first and second floors with offices on the third and fourth floors. The closed backstage area of the theater will be converted to new classroom and office space on all four floors. The project will also replace the floor, ceiling, and wall finishes; abate asbestos-containing materials; and purchase moveable equipment.

The Lincoln Hall project will seek to achieve a Gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), which would place the historic building at the

forefront of the national movement for sustainable energy practices. The “green” design features will make the building use less energy and have a lower impact on the environment.

"We are delighted that the Lincoln Hall renovation is moving forward. Lincoln Hall has played a vital role on this campus for nearly 100 years, housing eight percent of all undergraduate courses until it was closed in anticipation of this renovation. With the improvements scheduled in this project, Lincoln Hall will continue to serve students and faculty for generations to come," said interim Chancellor Robert Easter of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus.

Lincoln Hall has had no major improvements since 1930. Its space is underutilized and its utility systems require constant, costly maintenance. With the move of the former World Heritage Museum to the new Spurlock Museum of World Cultures, nearly all of Lincoln Hall's fourth floor can be converted to faculty office space, while the backstage of the theater, not used for 25 years since the Theater Department moved to the Krannert Center, can be converted for classroom and office space.

"This is welcome news. I am glad that after many years this is happening. This has been a top priority for the University and the region," said State Senator Michael W. Frerichs, (D-Champaign).

"It's good news that Lincoln Hall renovation is ready to move ahead. It is important for the University of Illinois and for the community. The completed renovation will provide a state-of-the-art academic facility and the project will provide jobs," said State Rep. Naomi D. Jakobsson (D-Champaign).

Lincoln Hall was built between 1909 and 1911. The Illinois General Assembly appropriated \$250,000 for the construction of the building to serve as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln on the 1909 centennial of his birth. The west end of the building and the theater were added in 1929 - 1930. The original architect was W.C. Zimmerman and the building, designed in the Renaissance Revival style, has many notable features, including a bronze bust of the 16th President just inside the main doorway off the Quad, and terra cotta plaques along three exterior sides. The plaques facing the Quad depict scenes from Lincoln's life, while the plaques on the sides contain quotations from the President.

Lincoln Hall currently houses the Political Science, Sociology, Speech and Communications, the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences Admissions and Records.

"As a student in the late nineties, Lincoln Hall was in dire need of repair then. I can remember chunks of plaster were falling from the ceiling of the theater during classes. This project is a welcome boost to the campus," said Rep. Chapin Rose (R-Charleston).

“Lincoln Hall was once a crown jewel on the university campus. After 80 years of minimal maintenance, I am very happy that this facility will be restored to its former prominence,” said State Rep. Bill Black (R-Danville), who noted he had a class in Lincoln Hall more than 40 years ago.

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