

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (July 13, 2009):

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Bethel Becomes Bethel University and Breaks Ground on New Science Building

McKENZIE, TN – Bethel will officially become Bethel University and will break ground on a new science building at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009 on its McKenzie, Tenn., campus, according to President Bob Prosser.

“We are taking the proper steps to change Bethel’s name from Bethel College to Bethel University,” Prosser said. “On that date, everything is scheduled to be official. We’re eager to celebrate this new chapter in Bethel’s history.”

According to Prosser, many returning students will be back on campus on the August 1 date.

“Our fall athletes and our Renaissance performing arts group will be back on campus preparing for their respective seasons. This constitutes hundreds of students who will get the opportunity to be part of the ground breaking and celebration event.”

Prosser says there will also be trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and friends at the event.

“We especially want this event to serve as a thank you to those who have contributed to the growth and development of Bethel, which has resulted in Bethel growing into a university. This will be a community event, and I encourage community members to join us for the celebration,” he said.

The new science building will be a green building that is designed, built, and operated in an ecological and resource-efficient manner. It will be LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) certified and will feature green initiatives including: wind power generation, solar power generation, triple pane vacuum windows, cellulosic insulation, a cool roof system, daylighting and live roof features.

“Besides better accommodating our growing number of science students, this building will also serve as a community learning center. Our hope is that elementary school children, middle schoolers and high schoolers can visit and learn about environmental science in a fun and meaningful way.”

The groundbreaking and celebration event is scheduled for 2 p.m. in the courtyard of the McKenzie campus. It kicks off an entire weekend of Bethel events that will conclude with summer 2009 commencement exercises at 2 p.m., on Sunday, August 2.

“These will be our first official Bethel University graduates,” Prosser said. “Bethel is truly blessed with so many amazing things happening at one time. We just thank all those who continue to believe in what we do here by lending their support.”

Prosser says the anticipated completion of the new science building is August 2010.

Cutline: Bethel will break ground on a new science building on Saturday, Aug. 1. This artist’s rendering pictures the building next to Odom Hall. The anticipated completion date of the new science building is August 2010.