

Best resources promised for new NSU library



Sen. Yvonne Miller at right, NSU president Carolyn Meyers in the red dress and other dignitaries at groundbreaking ceremony.

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By Jevonya F. Hughes

During her first campus tour of Norfolk State University, President Carolyn Meyers got her initial glimpse of the university library.

"They pointed out the library and they kept moving," Meyers said. "A few months later, I knew why. This library is from the past."

The building is more than 30 years old. It houses books that date back into the early 1960s.

Named after the late Lyman Beecher Brooks, the chief administrative officer of the university from 1938-1975, the facility is now scheduled to be torn down and replaced by a modern library.

A glass enclosed rotunda that will exceed 90 feet at its highest point will anchor the new library.

Plazas at both entrances will provide gathering places for students and create study areas that will include wi-fi access.

Last week, on the Campus Greens at NSU, a groundbreaking was held for the new Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, slated to open November 2011.

It will have 30 group study rooms, a graduate student research room, an e-learning center and an Internet cafe.

The interior also will include a large meeting and instruction room with state-of-the-art audio visual capabilities, a computer resource lab and study space.

"Getting students the absolute best resources is what we strive to do," said NSU Provost Y.T. Shah. "The new library will be at the forefront of all technical access."

Last year, the General Assembly approved a \$1.5 billion dollar borrowing package for South Hampton Roads colleges.

NSU will receive \$45.1 million for the library.

During the ceremony, other speakers included Ken

Vanhook from Moseley Architects; SGA president Shayla Schaffer, state Sen. Yvonne Miller and Del. Algie Howell.

"I think it's great that the school will finally get a new library," senior sociology major Simone Garrison said. "The old one is outdated; I just wish that I would get a chance to use it."

The library has a construction budget of more than \$36 million. Moseley Architects are credited with the design of the library and S.B. Ballard will be the contractor. NSU alumni Keith Settles is heading the project for Ballard.

Construction on the site is scheduled to begin this month.