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The beam receives its last signatures before it is placed in the structure.

Celebrating the Progress of the Integrated Engineering and Science Building

by Elizabeth Talbot, Chemical Engineering Junior

The Integrated Engineering and Science Building (IESB) is scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 2019, offering a major addition to the facilities available to Louisiana Tech's College of Engineering and Science (COES) to carry out its mission of training the high-quality engineers and scientists of the future. Most of its classrooms will be used for freshman and sophomore courses including engineering courses within the Living with the Lab program, calculus, general chemistry, statics, circuits and thermodynamics. Other offices currently in Bogard will be moved to the new building as well. The freshman engineering student help desk will have its own room in the building rather than sharing a Living with the Lab classroom. The new classrooms were designed with input from experienced faculty to ensure that each room will be an effective space for teaching and learning. Along with these classrooms, many faculty offices will relocate to the IESB, including the Undergraduate Studies Office. Although the IESB will have a majority of freshman and sophomore classrooms, upperclassmen will benefit from the new building. There will be high-quality study spaces throughout the building, ranging from tables in open areas to enclosed meeting rooms.

On October 5, 2018, the final beam of the building's structure was placed in front of Bogard Hall for students, faculty and staff to sign. Various COES clubs took shifts throughout the day to supervise the signing. The following day, a topping off ceremony was held to celebrate the progress of the Integrated Engineering and Science Building structure.

Louisiana Tech's Coordinator of Programs and Development, Ryan Richard organized the topping off ceremony, which occurred on October 6, 2018. The ceremony opened with the National Anthem played by COES majors within the Band of Pride. Many University faculty and staff attended, including Dr. Hisham Hegab, dean of the College of Engineering and Science, Dr. Les Guice, president of Louisiana Tech, and Dr. Dan Reneau, former president of Louisiana Tech. Other dignitaries, including Dr. James Henderson, the University of Louisiana System President, state legislators, Mayor Ronnie Walker, and Governor John Bel Edwards, also made appearances at the ceremony. Governor Edwards remarked on the importance of this new building, which happens to be one of the few state-funded academic buildings that he authorized since his election. He also recognized the positive impact that STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) jobs have on Louisiana's economy. The ceremony ended with a senior chemical engineering student, Adam Ramachandran, singing the Tech Alma Mater.

With the setting of the final beam, the IESB's construction will continue to conclusion by this summer; it is expected that the building's construction will finish in time for operation during the Fall 2019 quarter of next year. Its completion will usher in a new era for Louisiana Tech's COES program by offering a state-of-the-art facility and equipment to aid faculty and students alike in their respective pursuits of providing and receiving a high-quality education.