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Approval of Destination Project development report moves new science and academic building to shovel-ready status

The University of Lethbridge's Destination Project took a critical step forward as the institution's Board of Governors officially approved the final elements of a new science and academic building Thursday.

The Design Development Report for the Science and Academic Building contains a series of enhancements to the original concept, including minimization of the building's overall footprint, increased sustainability elements, removal of a new energy centre, co-location of major scientific instruments and reconfiguring and maximization of various spaces.

"This is the final planning stage needed to be completed before ground could be broken on this transformational project," says Dr. Andrew Hakin, Provost and Vice-President (Academic). "The Destination Project is shovel-ready and we are eager to realize this critical piece of infrastructure, not only for the benefit of the University, but for our city and province as well."

Structural and building envelope design is nearly completed and interior design and fit out will continue as construction begins. Subject to funding availability, the University anticipates construction to begin in early May.

The new science facility will support the U of L in its teaching and research activities, and will also engage the community through high school experiences, science outreach for K-12 and the broader community, and build connections to industry, NGOs, government and community groups.

"The construction of the Destination Project will benefit our community greatly in terms of economic stimulus and employment, while the long-term impact of the building is even more significant," says Hakin. "This new facility will ensure the U of L continues to attract top students and faculty to our city, will be a place where important questions

are answered and will facilitate critical relationships between our university and external stakeholders for the economic and social benefit of our communities.”

The design development report can be viewed in its entirety at:
<http://www.destinationproject.ca/about/>.

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