

Architect selected for SSCC campus in Brown County

The architect has been selected for Southern State Community College's prospective campus in Brown County near Mt. Orab. The college's newest campus will be designed by BHDP Architects, headquartered in Cincinnati and Columbus.

Southern State received proposals from 35 architectural firms. College officials and representatives from the State Architect's Office (SAO) conducted interviews with four firms Friday, March 9, on the college's Fayette Campus in Washington C.H. Members of the Long-Range Planning and Facilities Committee of the college's Board of Trustees were invited to participate in the proceedings.

Using a well-defined process for grading each application and assessing each firm, BHDP was ultimately selected.

"The group was impressed with BHDP's experience in designing learning spaces for higher education," said Dr. Kevin Boys, SSCC president. "They responded well to our interest in designing a campus that would take us to the 'next level.'"

Moving forward on the project, college officials will use the same process to select a construction management firm. The request for qualifications (RFQ), a standard business process with the purpose of inviting firms into a competitive selection process, is scheduled to be released within the next few days. Once a construction management firm is in place, the college can begin plans for the design of the new space.

"We expect for the ground-breaking to occur this summer," said Dr. Boys. "The construction phase could take about 18 months, which would position us to open the Mt. Orab site to students for Fall Semester 2014."

In searching for a replacement site for Southern State's current South Campus located near Fincastle, a market analysis identified Mt. Orab—specifically the State Route 32/Appalachian Highway area—as the prime location based on population centers and accessibility. The construction site is a 63-acre parcel located at the junction of State Route 32 and Brooks Malott Road.

The expansion project will be coordinated through the SAO, which oversees the design and construction of facilities for state agencies, boards, commissions and institutions of higher education. To learn more about the architectural firm, visit www.bhdp.com.