



# Construction UPDATE

Dear Corsair Community,

Thanks to everyone who attended our Capital Projects Campus Forum last week, where Chancellor Fuller and I provided highlights of the many facilities improvements we've completed over the last year and are ongoing now. If you missed it, you can read about these projects below.

I want to add my thanks to Chancellor Fuller's to everyone that has helped us to build and sustain this great momentum. We are making tremendous strides to modernize our teaching, research, and other campus facilities, and there is more to come.

Best,

David Gingerella  
Vice Chancellor of Administration & Facilities

## Academic Facilities

### Research Laboratory Upgrades

The University is currently in the process of upgrading four research labs in SENG and Violette. These renovations will be completed by the end of the semester, in time for summer research to take place in the refurbished spaces.

### Classroom Updates and Future Planning

The University installed new screens and other important learning technology in 30 classrooms during the fall and winter. This summer, we will upgrade the technology in approximately 15 more. The University and Sasaki Architects are currently undertaking a classroom study that seeks to assess general-purpose classroom utilization and design to better inform decision-making concerning the future of classroom planning across campus. [This survey is for all faculty—please take a few minutes to share your ideas about the kinds of spaces you would like to teach in.](#) This important engagement opportunity with faculty allows more input into how classroom spaces are being used today and how they can be reimagined to better serve the needs of faculty and students in the future.

## Liberal Arts Building and Main Auditorium Modernization



The renovations of LARTS are moving forward on schedule, and we are currently in the middle of the “Study” phase of the project. The University hired Sasaki Associates, a prominent international design firm with an office in Boston. The team recently finished laser measuring each hallway, classroom, and closets to help the design process. These measurements will increase accuracy in the design process, especially with our uniquely angled architecture.

You can meet the LARTS design team and the project manager and learn more about the LARTS project at a forum that will be held on April 13. By early next fall, we will be able to share more detailed information with LARTS occupants about the timeline and phases of the project, along with the implications of each phase for everyone who uses the building.

### Student Engagement Spaces

#### Veterans Resource Center

The University will open the Veterans Resource Center in April to support military veterans and their family members. The center, located next to the Campus Store in the Campus Center, will serve as a place for military-affiliated students to meet with fellow veterans and learn about services and programs to assist them on their personal, educational, and professional journey.

#### Library Basement Student Spaces

New spaces in the Library basement are being developed to support various student groups. The Student Government Association, Graduate Student Senate, and Veteran’s group will have offices in the area, and the eSports club will have access to a new practice space, for which the University received a generous donation of equipment.

### Campus Improvements

#### Wi-Fi

CITS recently completed a pilot installation of new Wi-Fi technology at the Law School, yielding promising results for upcoming upgrades on the main campus. This summer, we will be adding new access points around campus for an improved reach of signal as well as upgrading Eduroam’s authentication mechanism to guard against devices being disconnected. In the next academic year, CITS will replace fiber cables, switches, and access points to increase the strength of our wireless internet.

**Sustainability**

This summer, we will add more than 15 EV Chargers around the main campus, at no cost to the University, through a program with our electricity provider. We are also replacing many lights with more energy-efficient LED lighting, which is both more sustainable and brighter, to improve safety. We are also planning to replace the windows in our CVPA building on campus, which will be more energy efficient and improve the comfort of building occupants.

**Roof Repairs**

We are working to repair roof leaks around campus, specifically in highly trafficked buildings holding classrooms and offices, such as CVPA, SENG, and CCB.

**Accessibility**

Improving accessibility is a continuous process on our campus. Currently, we are planning for the replacement of 117 doors in nine buildings around the Quad.

**Public Safety**

Public safety is a top priority at UMass Dartmouth. This summer, 26 emergency blue lights will be installed around campus. These blue lights will include Wi-Fi hotspots to improve coverage across campus. There will also be lighting upgrades on walkways and parking areas on the main campus and the Law School for higher visibility.



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285 Old Westport Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747



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