

February 2020 update for MechSE students, faculty, and staff

Sidney Lu Mechanical Engineering Building

August 2021



Current view



Coffee status: we're Starbucks-official!

The student center in the new Lu MEB addition will be home to Starbucks Coffee, making it the only academic building on campus to have one! No matter where they come from, students, faculty, staff, and guests from around the world will likely find a snack or beverage that makes them feel right at home! Starbucks will greet them right when they come in the community space inside the building's new main entrance.



Key dates:

- ✓ **October 2018** - ceremonial groundbreaking event
- ✓ **May 2019** - construction and renovation begin
- ✓ **May 2019** - Building renamed for alumnus Sidney Lu
- August 2020** - Lab spaces in courtyard infill complete
- September 2020** - Existing Lu MEB renovation complete
- February 2021** - New construction complete
- August 2021** - First classes and labs held in the Lu MEB!

Note from Damon: Faculty, staff, and administrative offices could begin moving in as soon as December 2020!

The latest from Damon

MechSE operations director Damon McFall has been planning out teaching laboratories with faculty; communicating with architects, builders, and many layers of administrators; reviewing artists' proposals; and steering multitudes of other tasks. He is fully immersed in making sure the new facility lives up to expectations.



"Honestly, the most exciting part so far of the renovation has been that as I walk into the building—and they demolished the ceilings and old systems—it was so cool to see the structure and how it aligns with our vision of a contemporary industrial look," he said. "I mean, it was just very industrial. Very, very cool. And then I'm going back to the architect and saying, we have to keep as much of this exposed as we can."

More info available online

Keep up to date on the project—and see live shots from three different cameras—at mechse.illinois.edu/Lu-MEB.

I ILLINOIS

Mechanical Science & Engineering

GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING