

Housing projects finished, onto next projects

CSW

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NEWS-SUN

Two new identical buildings greet guests entering the College of the Southwest campus. The resident housing structures offer apartment style living for the 96 student occupants.

Construction on the first housing facility began April 2003 and was completed in October 2003. Many students who were scheduled to reside in the new housing complex were housed at a local hotel.

A few months after the first project was complete, in January 2004 construction on the second housing structure began. That project was finished in August 2004 — just in time to kick off the fall semester.

"We have been very pleased with the new residence halls and I believe the students are enjoying the space," said CSW President Gary Dill.

Both buildings are set up in a suite style configuration with some housing two doubles and two singles per suite and others having one double and one



single per suite. There are a total of 48 beds per building with the first having 14,913 square-feet and the second having 15,232 square-feet.

The first housing project cost more than \$1.7 million, according to CSW chief financial officer and vice president for administrative services Dee Mooney. Since there was no need to duplicate some of the architectural

and engineering work the second dorm project cost about \$1.5 million.

On the first floor of each structure is a laundry facility, fully equipped kitchen and a commons area furnished with a television, VCR, table and chairs, couches and a fireplace.

The rooms are furnished with a desk, chair, night stand, twin bed, dresser for each student. Each suite is about 1,500 square-feet and has a commons area furnished with a television and a 5-piece sectional. Students can use the pieces to arrange as a couch and chair, or love seat and two chairs or use as a sectional.

"I like the furniture," said Stephanie Perry, a 19-year-old student from Roswell. "I'm glad it came furnished and you can do a lot of things with it."

CSW junior, Shawnta Griffin likes the apartment feel of the layout. Her room, decorated in the Walt Disney character Egor, is larger enough for her small television and computer as well as a round disc chair.

"I have my own room so it is more private," Griffin said. "It really all feels more like home than more traditional dorms. It feels like an apartment."

Now that the two dorms are completed, the college is ahead on its housing projects and, according to Dill, is planning to "re-visit the master plan" and focus on the new gymnasium.

CSW board of trustees will hear recommendations for the new gym at the March board meeting, according to Dill. One of the recommendations may include locating the gym at the front of the campus instead of tearing down the current facility to build the new structure.

"We are not boxing ourselves into the master plan," Dill said. "A lot of sweat and blood went into those buildings and they still have a lot of use in them."

The current gym could be revitalized and used for intramural and as a practice facility. Dill stressed that nothing has been decided by board members.

"We're focusing on providing a diverse college experience for residential and non-residential students, traditional and non-traditional age students," Dill said. "We need more than housing so we're looking at program needs and expanding our support services to better accommodate our students."



College of the Southwest junior Shawnta Griffin reads in her private dorm room located in one of the two new housing complexes on the CSW campus.

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