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COURTESY MAVERICK CONSTRUCTION

Ground was broken in May and company school officials expect occupancy to occur by the end of this month.

Maverick Construction Completes New Campus For Spring Arbor

Venture Is First Foray Into Higher Education Projects For Firm

By Katy Rent

OSHTEMO — This fall, students at Spring Arbor University's Kalamazoo campus will be attending classes in a new building that better reflects the school's professional image.

At the end of August, Spring Arbor is planning a move into a new facility located on Ninth Street in Oshtemo, giving the school twice the space it currently occupies. The facility was designed and constructed by Maverick Companies, an umbrella company that includes Maverick Real Estate and Development and Maverick Construction Co.

"With the two areas of the company we were able to offer Spring Arbor a seamless solution to the development of this property by representing them in leasing and construction management," said Dave Trombley, marketing and administration manager for Maverick. "This provides them with one point of contact, where we can answer concerns and facilitate the client."

The project broke ground in early May on land owned by Mike Seelye of

Sago Properties. Sago not only owns the land but also owns the building and will lease space to Spring Arbor, one of two tenants the building will have. The second tenant is Workforce Strategies Inc., a pharmaceutical employment agency.

The 12,000-square-foot building of Class A office space features a completely brick exterior with full-perimeter ribbon glass.

"They (Spring Arbor) wanted to go for the modern, office-type appearance because their other campuses are in office buildings, but in the state they don't have any free-standing buildings like this," said Mark Eddy, principal of Maverick Real Estate Development. "This building projects the image they want and attracts the students they want to attract. This is important for their target market."

Spring Arbor is a Christian liberal arts school that has been serving students for 130 years. Many students are between the ages of 20-something and 30-something, Eddy said.

"Most of the students that attend Spring Arbor in Kalamazoo already have an associate's degree and want to get a bachelor's degree in a timely and cost-effective manner," said Eddy. "They are able to go from an associate's to a bachelor's in 55 to 56 weeks."

Spring Arbor, with a main campus located in Spring Arbor and 15 additional

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Campus

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 campuses across Michigan, serves students in virtually every area of the state with an assortment of undergraduate degrees, a degree completion program, post-baccalaureate teacher certification, graduate degree and online courses.

The university has been in Kalamazoo for a little over six years and this will be the second move within the area. Trombley noted that this move is a strategic one for Spring Arbor.

"This is the second fastest growing area in the city of Kalamazoo," said Trombley of Oshtemo. "The location is

also prime for the school because it is located one mile east of Stadium Drive, between Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College."

The Kalamazoo area now touts four higher education facilities, and Trombley sees the potential for more such jobs for Maverick Construction.

"This is our first venture into this market but it is a good market to get involved in," said Trombley. "We are hoping Spring Arbor will help us to saturate the market, and we are hoping to work again and continue working with Spring Arbor." **CU**