

## Nursing school addition nears completion

### \$39 million ASU building will ease classroom crunch

by **Jahna Berry** - May. 19, 2009 12:52 PM  
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The copper building rising at Phoenix's Fillmore and Third streets will have multiple personalities, ASU officials say. It's a school for nurses, a gathering place for students and a campus gateway.

[Arizona State University](#) is wrapping up construction of a \$39 million nursing school addition for the university's fast-growing downtown Phoenix campus. The building will open in August.

"It's exciting," said [Bernadette Melnyk](#), dean of the nursing school, as she watched crews paint walls and prep floors for tile and carpet. "We are running out of space."

The five-story building at 550 N. Third St., is the second Phoenix building for the [College of Nursing](#) & Healthcare Innovation. When the downtown campus opened in 2006, the school moved from Tempe into a renovated office building at 500 N. Third St.

But 500 N. Third St. doesn't have classrooms, and other downtown classrooms are near capacity. Even looming budget cuts won't solve the space crunch, ASU officials say.

Although the nursing school plans to cut admissions by 26 percent starting this fall, other ASU programs are being consolidated into the nursing school, said nursing school spokesman Terry Olbrysh.

#### Campus gateway

The new nursing school building sits at an intersection where many drivers enter the downtown campus. The community wanted a building that has presence, said lead design architect Mark Kranz, of SmithGroup. The architectural firm worked on the project.

A fire staircase that faces Third and Fillmore streets will be enclosed in frosted glass and will glow at night, he said.

The building has a copper skin - a nod to Arizona's mining roots - that will form a patina over time. The metal won't turn green because there is less moisture in Valley air than in other climates, Kranz said.

"It will wear, just like a penny in your pocket," he said.

#### Many students

Over the next few weeks, glass will go up on the outside staircase, said Peter Berg, of DPR Construction Inc. Most of the work has shifted inside of the building, he said.

ASU's nursing school has about 2,000 enrolled students. ASU had a total of 8,400 enrolled students in [downtown Phoenix](#) in fall 2008. Roughly 5,000 of them take at least one class downtown, and the rest of the students take classes at other campuses or elsewhere.