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Hardin Construction's Completion of Cougar Village Expands University of Houston's Living-Learning Offerings

New freshman housing facility helps to redefine the campus culture

HOUSTON, TX (November 18, 2010) — Hardin Construction Company joined University of Houston officials recently in celebrating the grand opening of Cougar Village, a \$42 million freshman housing facility the university says will greatly expand the offerings of its living-learning community and serve as a model for future expansion.

The striking, seven-story, 291,000-square-foot building in the central core of the campus houses 1,132 students including Honors College students, who occupy an entire floor, and other students grouped into theme communities based on their academic disciplines, such as business, engineering/technology, communication and art.

Cougar Village will help the university accommodate its growing student enrollment. It is also part of the university's long-term plan to transform the traditional commuter campus into a setting that provides a more dynamic environment for living, learning and socializing.

All under one roof

Cougar Village features suites and single units and provides students with a range of amenities, including a central lounge and other social spaces, study and lecture areas, a fitness center, kitchens, a convenience store, a computer room, and student services offices.

“Hardin Construction congratulates the University of Houston and is honored to have played a role in the campus’ growth and transformation,” said Steve Rivers, Senior Vice President of Hardin Construction Company, general contractor for the project.

The university announced it selected the team of Hardin, which has three active projects in the Houston market, and HADP Architecture, Inc., which designed Cougar Village, based on Hardin/HADP’s proposal, which emphasized affordability, understanding of program needs, quality of design, and responsiveness to the campus architectural palette.

A significant feature of Cougar Village was its use of the tunnel-form construction method, in which concrete walls and slabs were cast simultaneously and joined at the top and sides. This technique reduced the cost of construction by nearly 20 percent.

Hardin, which has built more than five million square feet of higher-education facilities, completed the project in 14 months.

About Hardin Construction

Hardin Construction Company, LLC provides unequalled construction services through its culture of integrity, innovation and opportunity. Hardin is ranked among the nation’s top construction companies and is nationally recognized by the industry for its outstanding safety record. A leader in green construction, Hardin has completed nearly 20 LEED-certified projects and has more than 40 LEED Accredited Professionals. Founded

in 1946 and privately held, Hardin's services include general construction, construction management, design-build, and renovation for projects of broad scope and complexity. Hardin has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., and offices in Tampa, Fla., Orlando, Fla., Raleigh, N.C., and Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.hardinconstruction.com.

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