

Indiana State University is on schedule with its efforts to turn the former Federal Building in downtown Terre Haute into the home for its Scott College of Business.

ISU acquired the building at Seventh and Cherry streets in late summer, but prior to that time two phases of renovation were completed.

During the first phase, the exterior of the building was given a facelift. Windows were replaced, limestone was cleaned, and lighting fixtures and elevators were restored. Phase II included relocation and construction of a U.S. Postal Service area, which will be maintained by Indiana State University. Demolition of the loading dock area on the south side of the building and mechanical work on utilities also was completed.

Phase III of the project is estimated to cost \$20 million. ISU has a goal of \$11 million to be raised from donations, said Scott College of Business Dean Nancy Merritt.

A boon for that fundraising effort came last month in the form of a substantial gift from retired Terre Haute businessman and insurance executive, Donald W. Scott, and his wife, Susan. The Scotts' gift enables the college to move forward in educational programs and facilities while preserving key historical elements of the building in the heart of downtown Terre Haute, Merritt said.

Indiana State University is awaiting state approval before entering Phase III of the project, which will formally convert the building into a new home for the college. Project architects, Schmidt and Associates of Indianapolis, are in the process of developing plans that could link the building to the John T. Myers Technology Center.

"Classrooms, meeting spaces, and laboratories are being designed with community connections, student-faculty interaction, and professional and leadership development in mind," Merritt said.

Current plans for the lower level of the building, which has three above-ground floors and one below-ground level, designate it as an instructional hub. It will house classrooms, labs and other teamwork development facilities including a sales and negotiations suite, leadership training facilities, computer labs and a study space.

The historic courtroom and post office lobby and boxes on the first floor will be preserved under the National Historic Preservation Act. The first floor will also house an expanded financial trading room thanks to a donation from alumnus Randall Minas and his wife, Nancy.

There has been no change to the original design for the second-floor courtroom. The room – with its Frederick Webb Ross mural depicting the signing of the Magna Carta – will be reserved for lectures and community and university events.

Three-tiered seminar classrooms will be housed on the third floor, with space for faculty offices and facilities for endowed professors and visiting executives.

As renovation plans for the building continue, developing a College of Business that connects students and faculty with the community is one of Merritt's primary objectives.

"Our goal is to envision and fine-tune key programming now," Merritt said. "This will enable us to engage our current and future students in business development, financial and management practices and professional development skills."