

To: Faculty and Staff  
From: Alice P. Gast  
Re: Science, Technology, Environment, Policy and Society (STEPS) Building:  
Schedule for Groundbreaking

I want to share with you the important news that, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Lehigh will immediately begin securing the necessary permits and executing the bidding process in order to begin construction of the Science, Technology, Environment, Policy and Society (STEPS) building in early August 2008. This will provide the opportunity for at least four months of work before the winter weather sets in, enabling significant progress toward completion of the building in June 2010.

The STEPS initiative, another element in transforming the University's intellectual footprint, is integral to Lehigh's mission of integrated teaching, research and service. The overall program provides the human capital and gathering space for the integration of sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences which will lead to new solutions to the challenging problems of the environment and natural resources. STEPS positions Lehigh to take a leadership role in addressing these critical societal issues.

The decision to begin construction as soon as possible was based on careful consideration of a number of critical factors. They included confidence in our ability to raise funds for the building while it is under construction, estimates of the inflationary impact on the project if it was delayed, and the fact that STEPS is among the University's major academic initiatives.

An artist's rendering of the building is available [here](#), and a web story about the STEPS initiative can be found [here](#).

We expect to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the STEPS building on Founder's Day in October. I hope that you and your families and friends will join us on campus for the festivities and the football game.