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Chapman Construction selected to oversee renovations to Freese Student Center at Southern New Hampshire University

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Rendering courtesy of Analogue Studio

Manchester, NH Chapman Construction has been selected to oversee renovations to the Robert A. Freese Student Center at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). The occupied renovation will modernize this central artery of the campus and incorporate sustainable improvements. Chapman will complete the 34,210 s/f project in partnership with architect Analogue Studio.

The building's features include an Einstein's Bagels location, a student bookstore, post office, interfaith room, campus pub, commuter lounge, club offices, and wellness center. The multi-phased project incorporates both aesthetic improvements along with overhauling utility infrastructure for future installations of energy-efficient equipment. Chapman will complete the renovation in phases to

keep the student center operational throughout construction, an approach that requires planning and coordination with the school, along with temporarily relocating staff and ensuring occupant safety.

“When renovating the Student Center, it was important for us to create an inclusive, vibrant space that fosters connection, collaboration, and a sense of belonging — responding to the changing needs of our students and empowering them to thrive in every aspect of their college experience,” said Heather Lorenz, VP of student affairs and campus based initiatives at SNHU.

In addition to new finishes and a modernized building envelope featuring high-efficiency glazing and ACM siding, Chapman will also integrate improvements to address aging energy infrastructure. This includes removing existing cabling, shutting down gas service, and constructing a new utility room. This phase of work will enable the team to electrify the building, including the installation of 18 electric rooftop units that replace the existing gas-fired equipment.

“We are excited to partner with a firm like Chapman Construction that so clearly understands the need to modernize campuses in new ways, including meeting evolving energy standards,” said Alex Regnery, capital projects manager, SNHU. “The improvements to the Robert A. Freese Student Center will enable our institution to raise the bar for on-campus amenities and vital resources within an energy-efficient and electrified facility.”

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