

What's New

April 30, 2009

Topping Out Celebration Held for Residence Halls on Allen University Campus in Columbia, South Carolina

The BE&K Building Group hosted a topping out celebration last month at South Carolina's Allen University where our company is constructing two, four-story residence halls. Our Charlotte office is responsible for the \$15.5 million design-build project due for completion this summer.

Allen University administrators, faculty and students joined BE&K Building Group project team members and subcontractors for a traditional topping out ceremony, followed by a catered barbeque luncheon.



In order to meet the Owner's fast-track schedule, our project team opted for an alternate structural system to expedite the buildings' skeletons. "The lightweight panels were erected like a giant Lego® castle, with walls and floor pieces put into place with up to four cranes operating at one time," explained Chris Whitley, senior superintendent. "On an average day, the erection crews typically produced 80 wall panels or 100 floor panels per crane. Staging the material to feed the cranes on this congested site posed a difficult logistical puzzle."

The East and West residence halls are nearly identical in design. Both the 60,552-square-foot West facility and the 54,541-square-foot East building feature brick-veneer facing on the lower levels, with EIFS and ornamental metal on the upper floors. The two buildings are connected by an attractive breezeway.

About the BE&K Building Group — The BE&K Building Group, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, is a prominent construction services firm with an established track record for serving commercial, healthcare, industrial, and institutional clients throughout the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and South Central regions. The BE&K Building Group, which has commercial operations in eight locations, is the exclusive construction arm of KBR, a leading U.S. based engineering, construction and services company.

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