Officials of MSU, along with members of its Board of Regents, local and state legislators, broke ground March 19 for three new projects with a total estimated cost of $48.3 million. The three projects are the East Parking Complex and Dining Commons, the Main Campus Residence Hall and the Derrickson Agricultural Complex Residence Hall.

None of the projects are being financed with state general fund appropriations or state bonds.

All three projects are scheduled to be completed by Fall 2016.

“This is a historic day,” said Dr. Wayne D. Andrews, MSU president. “We have done a lot of work on the planning of these projects. Every MSU student will benefit.”

“The students told us they want better housing, better food service, better parking and better technology. All four of those improvements are underway.”

The East Parking Complex and Dining Commons will be built on the site of the former Waterfield Hall at a cost of $17.6 million. There will be approximately 400 parking spaces on three parking decks (totaling 110,000 square feet). The 25,000 square foot dining commons will overlook the central residential community. The project was designed by EOP Architects, Lexington. The parking and dining facility is being funded from private funds and from student fees for housing, parking and dining services.

The Main Campus Residence Hall (yet to be named) will be built on the site of the former Regents and Wilson Halls. At a cost of $28 million, the new hall will provide space for 550 residents. It will provide suite style rooms, student/study meeting areas, and will have Wi-Fi connectivity throughout. Sherman Carter Barnhart of Lexington designed the building.

At the Derrickson Agricultural Complex (on KY 377 north of Morehead), two new residential facilities will be built. At a cost of $2.7 million, the halls combined will have 15,000 total square footage and will have 48 beds with six-person apartment style rooms along with amenities that will be conducive to farm learning/living environment. Both buildings will offer Wi-Fi connectivity throughout. The project was designed by Sherman Carter Barnhart of Lexington and will be built by Codell Construction of Winchester.

The residence halls will be funded with institutional bonds paid by rental fees from residents.

These projects are part of a comprehensive Campus Master Plan that focuses on meeting student, employee and community needs and expectations. The vision is to make the campus a greener, more pedestrian-friendly place, with plans to recreate a central campus entrance and establish focused “districts” of activity.

To follow MSU’s progress on these and other campus improvement projects, visit www.moreheadstate.edu/progress.
Craft Academy selects initial class

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics at Morehead State University has selected 60 students for its Class of 2017.

“The announcement of the inaugural class of the Craft Academy marks an exciting moment in Morehead State University’s rich history,” said Dr. Wayne D. Andrews, president. “We are eager to welcome some of the Commonwealth’s best and brightest to MSU and look forward to having them join us on campus this August.”

The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics will meet the unique educational needs of academically gifted and talented high school juniors and seniors in the Commonwealth. A college-level curriculum will allow students to finish high school while also completing up to two years of university coursework. It will offer a residential college experience and environment to promote innovation and creative enterprise, developing the full potential of the state’s brightest minds and most promising future leaders.

In addition, the Craft Academy will offer project-based STEM+X courses that will enrich educational experiences and develop competencies in entrepreneurship and innovation, design and creativity, and civic and regional engagement.

Students will live on campus in a newly renovated residence hall designed for high school aged students. The facility will have meeting and social space and be staffed 24/7. Counselors and advisors also will be available.

“This first class of scholars includes some of the most academically talented students from across the Commonwealth, and we couldn’t be more proud of them,” said Dr. Carol Christian, director of the Craft Academy. “The selection process was extremely competitive, and we were very pleased with the quality of all the candidates that applied. By developing minds that will create, invent and lead, these Craft Academy participants represent Kentucky’s future in the STEM fields. I can only imagine the impact they will have on the quality of life in our region, state and beyond.”

MSU designated a ‘Tree Campus USA’

MSU has been honored with 2014 Tree Campus USA® recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and sponsored by Toyota to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

MSU selected as ‘Best for Vets: Business Schools’

Military Times has announced Morehead State University’s School of Business Administration has made its “Best for Vets: Business Schools 2015” rankings. MSU was ranked among the top 75 business schools. Selections focused on veteran culture and curriculum, cost in the context of military and veteran benefits, overall veteran policies, and publicly available quality measures.

MSU is nationally recognized as one of the top military and veteran friendly schools in the nation. MSU has been recognized as a military/veteran-friendly university by GI Jobs magazine, Military Advanced Education journal, the Military Times and the U.S. News and World Report.