The building
- 545 men and women residents, both upperclass and freshmen.
- Residents may choose one of four room designs, including private bedrooms.
- Single gender by suite.
- New 22,000 square-foot dining center, South Commons, connects Oliver Hall and Downs Hall.
- Renovated academic commons will be located in the existing Oliver Hall dining center.
- Laundry rooms on each floor, recreation room and full kitchen.

Hall location and name
- **1517 W. 18th Street.** With the construction of the Central District, this building is located at the new center of the KU campus, easily accessible by walking and by convenient bus routes.
- **Conveniently located.** Nearby buildings that serve many upperclass students include the Schools of Business, Law, Engineering, and Music.
- **Nearby recreation.** Buildings include Anschutz Sports Pavilion, Allen Fieldhouse, Hoglund Ballpark and Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center.
- **Cora Downs Residence Hall.** The name recognizes the contributions of a renowned scientist. Downs earned her doctorate degree from KU in 1924, and also received her undergraduate and master’s degrees from KU. She began as an instructor of bacteriology in 1917, then became a professor and served as a member of the faculty until her retirement in 1963. Dr. Downs was one of KU’s most outstanding scientists. During World War II, she led 40 scientists in a top secret biological warfare project. (Side note: Her grandmother, also named Cora Downs, was the first female member of the Kansas Board of Regents.) The historical name fits perfectly with KU Student Housing’s mission to build learning-centered communities.

Project scope
- Second project of the KU Central District, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents in November 2015. The Central District project is being financed without any additional state funding through a public-private partnership with Edgemoor Infrastructure & Real Estate.
- Total project cost estimated at $51 million for residence hall and dining center. The rate that residents pay, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, can be found at housing.ku.edu. Student housing is fee-funded and, as with other renovation and construction, the cost is borne by students who choose the new building not by general tuition.
- Completion dates for the Central District’s six key components:
  - Spring 2017. Parking garage
  - Summer 2017. Downs Residence hall, dining center
  - Summer 2018. Student union
  - July 2018. Integrated Science Building
  - July 2018. New, 700-bed Stouffer Place student apartments
  - Summer 2018. Central utility plant

History of residence hall construction
- **Downs Hall.** Opened in August 2017
- **Self and Oswald Halls.** Opened in August 2015
- **GSP Hall.** Renovated and reopened in August 2012
- **Jayhawkers Towers A, D.** Renovated and reopened in August 2009 and 2010
- **Hashinger Hall.** Renovated and reopened in August 2006
- **Ellsworth Hall.** Renovated and reopened in August 2004
- **Lewis Hall.** Renovated and reopened in August 1999
- **Templin Hall.** Renovated and reopened in August 1997