

Brian Byrne

Vice president of Lincoln Center campus

Brian Byrne has been at Fordham for the past 30 years, most of it in the kind of jobs that give rise to the dreaded 3 a.m. phone call or, as he puts it, "all the things that go bump in the night."

Now vice president of Fordham's Lincoln Center campus, he is honchoing a \$1.6 billion expansion that over 20 years will add six buildings and 1.5 million square feet of classroom, library and dormitory space. It includes two private rental towers to be built on land that the institution sold to a private developer, the proceeds of which will help finance the development.

The first phase, due to be completed in 2014, will encompass a new law school, a student center and a dormitory for 430 students. Later phases include more dorm capacity, a new theater and additional space for the library, the graduate school of business, and the graduate schools of social services and education.

Fordham, which was founded by Jesuits and remains a Catholic institution, has historically been a commuter school, but it has spent the past 30 years trying to transform itself into the kind of residential university that can attract a broad student body. Today, 80% of its 15,100 students live in dorms, mostly at its Bronx campus, and its third-largest contingent of under-

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Bronx-based school has a \$1.6B Lincoln Center expansion in works.

graduates comes from California. The Lincoln Center project aims to further that progress.

Like other university expansions in the city, it has created its share of squabbles with neighbors. Fordham scaled back the plan, and in August 2010, the state Supreme Court handed the university a victory in a lawsuit brought by a group of nearby condo owners. Mr. Byrne, 62, describes the Lincoln Center project not as an expansion but as a "full development" of Fordham's existing Lincoln Center campus.

Raised in Virginia, Mr. Byrne showed up at Fordham in 1971 to get a doctorate and ultimately got an M.B.A. to boot. After completing his Ph.D., he taught as an adjunct and then joined the university as assistant to the president for urban affairs. Over the years, he has headed several key departments, including government relations, real estate development and administration. He's worked for 20 years with Fordham's University Neighborhood Housing Program to develop and preserve affordable housing in the Bronx. He's still on the board of UNHP and teaches a class in business ethics.

The hardest part of his job? "It's respecting the process, which requires patience, but at the same time constantly moving it forward," he said.

—JUDITH MESSINA

