The structure will demonstrate innovative mass-timber construction – a relatively new construction method in the U.S.

Some significant advantages to large wood-engineered buildings are: wood has a smaller carbon footprint than other conventional construction; wood is lighter than steel & concrete; it is sustainable; it performs well in seismic tests; and wood performs better in fire than steel.

In total, there will be 854 Glulam beams, weighing 442 tons, combined. The largest will weigh more than 4 tons and is 10-1/4 inches by 60 inches and 58 feet long.

The structure is approximately 67,000 square feet and will have a capacity over 4,000. It will feature a performance basketball court, a practice court, coaches offices, locker rooms, and a club area for premium seating and hospitality. It’s scheduled to be completed in 2021.

In total, the arena is conservatively expected to increase the local economy by 74 jobs, $7.8 million in output, $3.7 million in gross regional product, and $2.7 million in wages and salaries (according to an economic study by Steven Peterson in UI’s College of Business and Economics).