

THE ADVOCATE

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Provident in Baton Rouge breaks ground on \$115 million Dallas-area hotel

Provident Resources Group, a Baton Rouge-based nonprofit asset development and management firm, said construction has started on a \$115 million convention hotel in metro Dallas that it will own.

The 350-room Westin Irving Convention Center Hotel in Irving, Texas, is set to open in December 2018, said Steve Hicks, chairman and chief executive officer of Provident. Marriott Hotels will operate the property and Preston Hollow Capital of Dallas provided the financing.

The hotel, which will have more than 16,000 square feet of ballroom, meeting and retail space, will be next to the **Irving Convention Center**.

This is the first hotel Provident will own. The company has developed a range of properties, including student housing, senior living facilities and affordable housing, stretching from California to Maryland. Hicks said Provident is working on three other hotel developments, which would be built near convention centers and major airports.