

AU breaks ground for McLane Center Annex

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Alfred University officially broke ground Oct. 11 for an addition to its physical education facilities that will “contribute in a very significant way to the health and wellness of our students and our neighbors,” said Peter Cuneo, chairman of the Alfred University Board of Trustees.

The McLane Center Annex is the centerpiece of a \$14.5 million capital campaign, “Score One for AU,” the first major effort to raise funds for athletics and recreational facilities at the University in 40 years.

Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson praised the efforts of his predecessor, Edward G. Coll, Jr., and former State Sen. J.R. “Randy” Kuhl for initially securing the \$8 million in NYS funds to support the project. Their vision, said Edmondson, was to create something that would benefit both the campus and the community, and the McLane Center Annex will do that.

The addition, at the north end of McLane Physical Education Center, will house an indoor four-lane track and three basketball courts; men’s and women’s locker rooms; storage areas, and an elevator leading to the street level entrance of McLane. The 33,000 square foot facility located off the north end of the McLane Center -- will include an indoor track, an all-purpose court, two locker rooms with restroom facilities. A support wing located on the west end of the annex will house a multi-purpose room for community-oriented activities like yoga, Zoomba and martial arts, along with an office and some room for storage.

An elevator will run from the ground level of the main annex area to the support wing to the second floor. The new facility will connect to the main McLane Center building via the football office annex.

The new facility is slated for completion by September 2014. Paul Vecchio, AU athletics director, pointed to the benefits the Annex will provide not only to the University population, but the Alfred community as a whole.

“Most significant is the impact this will make on the AU student body at large who will now have access to an enormous amount of indoor space for recreation, intramurals and club sports,” Vecchio commented. “In addition, our AU faculty and staff will now have an indoor venue on campus, when paired with the Gibbs Fitness Center in McLane, which can truly bring health and wellness into focus for 12 months a year in the village of Alfred.”

University officials stress the facility will be open to the public, providing a facility that can host activities aimed at promoting health and fitness. It will also provide a training facility for the Saxon track teams and the courts will help accommodate the University’s intramural programs.