



Friday, October 4, 2002

OU to break ground on OC expansion project

Oakland University will break ground this week on a long anticipated expansion project that adds more room, more student services and more amenities for students, faculty and staff in less than a year when the project will be complete.

"I have always thought of the **Oakland Center** as the heart of campus — a gathering place for academic and social interchange as students, faculty and staff find time outside of the classroom for intellectual inquiry and personal growth," said Richard Fekel, director of the Oakland Center. "With this expansion to an already high traffic facility, we are well on our way to providing a student center that will accommodate the growing needs and numbers of our student body."

Through the \$8 million, 30,000-square-foot addition, the "OC," as it's commonly referred to, will have an impressive new entrance – a gateway of sorts – into Oakland's growing campus.

Included in the two-story addition will be expanded seating in Pioneer Food Court and an upgraded kitchen area behind the scenes. A reception and study area will be added as well as a 24-hour "cyber café" with non-stop Internet connection. On the second floor, a 7,000-square-foot multipurpose room will be added for lectures, banquets and student organization functions.

"Our goal has always been to make the Oakland Center a facility that puts students first and accommodates their growing needs and interests," said Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs. "By expanding the Oakland Center, we are providing the highly functional space and technological enhancements that will allow engaging and rewarding campus life experiences to take place in keeping with our university vision of providing a distinctive undergraduate experience."

This is not the first capital improvement to the OC. In 1997, a "mall-style" food court was expanded to allow more seating and food choices. Two years later, the lower level was renovated adding new meeting rooms, more space for student organizations, and entertainment and study areas. The OU Bookstore also underwent a full renovation.

Students, faculty and staff are invited to the groundbreaking ceremony Friday, Oct. 11, at 4:30 p.m. outside the southwest entrance to the OC. The University Appreciation Dinner will follow from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Pioneer Food Court.

SUMMARY

Oakland University will break ground this week on a long anticipated expansion project that will add more room, more student services and more amenities for students, faculty and staff. Through the \$8 million, 30,000-square-foot addition, the "OC," as it's commonly referred to, will have an impressive new entrance – a gateway of sorts – into Oakland's growing campus.

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