

Student Life Center Groundbreaking
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August 21, 2012

Welcome to today's groundbreaking event. We're honored to have you be a part of what we believe is an important development for the future of our campus.

Universities across the nation compete to attract the best students possible to their campus. That's particularly important in the role that UAH plays in the Huntsville community's workforce development efforts, and for our support of Redstone Arsenal and Cummings Research Park. Potential students base their decisions on a variety of factors — whether an institution offers a certain major, athletics, Greek life, extracurricular activities. The list is long.

What is important to attracting students is an overall positive collegiate experience. And that experience is centered on what is often referred to as a student union. That is the facility that you see under construction behind us.

This facility, aptly named Charger Union, is a tremendous step forward for our students. It will be the focus of expanding student life on our campus and creating that outstanding experience for the nearly 8,000 students that attend class on our campus.

Our students have expressed much excitement about this new facility. You will hear their thoughts in a few minutes.

First, however, I would like to recognize Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and call on him to make a few remarks about the progress we're making on campus.