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### **Auburn University's groundbreaking ceremony for freshman-only classroom facility**

AUBURN, Ala.- Auburn University's green space will be the new home of a freshman-only classroom facility. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m.

The facility will provide approximately 50,000 square feet of instructional space. The building will have classrooms with the latest technology, a space dedicated to group study and a coffee shop for a place to socialize.

"We are really excited about the construction of this building. A lot of freshmen get overwhelmed in the library trying to find a place to study. We hope this building will provide a comforting atmosphere to the freshmen class to be able to study as well as socialize," said University President Jay Gogue.

Studies show that freshmen are better students when they can study and learn in peer groups than when they attend classes mixed with upper classmen. When in a class with students of the same age group, they are more likely to speak up and participate.

"I would have loved having an all freshmen building when I was an incoming freshman. Upper classmen can be intimidating, so this building will be a good escape for these students," says Sarah Blazejewski, a junior majoring in accounting.

The building will adhere to green building, or LEED, standards. Auburn currently has four LEED buildings on campus, and is working on getting six more approved.

"Sustainability is a huge part of what Auburn stands for. This building reinforces the pledge by the university to make sustainability one of the guiding principals at Auburn," says Mike Kensler, director of the Office of Sustainability.

The project is expected to begin March 1 with completion anticipated before fall semester 2018. This will be the second building Auburn plans on opening right before the beginning of fall semester.

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Auburn University is a designated land-grant institution in the state of Alabama. Auburn is ranked as the top university in Alabama, when comparing both public and private institutions. As a comprehensive university, Auburn is devoted to offering high-quality undergraduate, graduate and professional education to its scholars. Auburn will provide the highest priority for resource

allotment for the future growth of those areas that represent the traditional strengths, standards, reputation and uniqueness of the university and proceed to efficiently respond to the needs of students and other constituents. For more news about Auburn University, visit <http://ocm.auburn.edu/newsroom/>.