

'First impression'



This rendering shows what Clemson University's new Alumni and Visitors Center could look like when it is completed, which officials expect to be late next year. SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

After groundbreaking, construction on \$56M CU alumni center expected to be finished by fall 2024

THE JOURNAL STAFF

CLEMSON — About 100 Clemson University stakeholders gathered Wednesday evening near the future site of the \$56 million Alumni and Visitors Center.

Adjacent to the Madren Conference Center and Walker Golf Course, the 100,000-square-foot facility is expected to be completed in fall 2024 to welcome an annual figure of more than 70,000 people a year. University officials, some trustees, alumni and current students met for the special groundbreaking event to signify the beginning of the major project.

"This building will be what many people experience as their first impression of Clemson University," Clemson president Jim Clements said under a massive gazebo structure Wednesday. "It shows the dedication and commitment that Clemson has in connecting our Tigers throughout their Clemson experience and throughout their lifetime."

"The new Clemson Alumni and



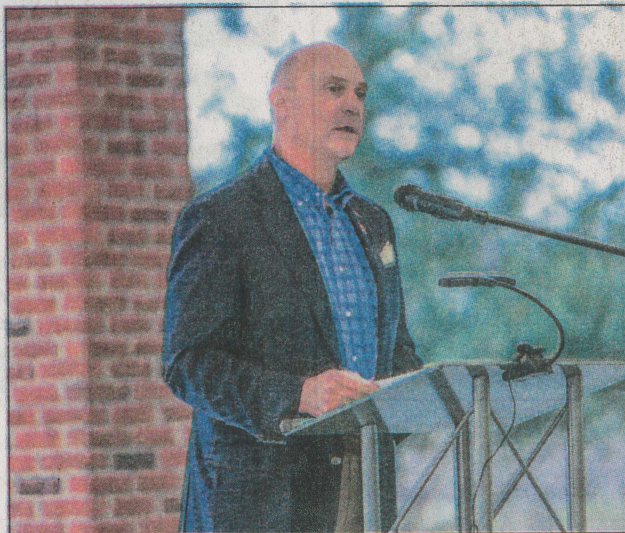
Clemson University officials pose during a special groundbreaking ceremony for the new Clemson Alumni and Visitors Center on Wednesday evening. CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

Visitors Center will create a special gathering place that will be an invaluable asset for the Alumni Association in executing our mission of providing a lifelong connection to Clemson University," Clemson Alumni Association past president Gregg Morton said.

In 2021, officials first publicly talked about the project that will

house the Clemson University Foundation (CUF), the Alumni Association, the admissions office, development office, the board of trustees' staff offices, the Michelin Career Center and visitors center. The center will also house a new golf pro shop and grill that will

CENTER: Cost up nearly \$10M



CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

Clemson University president Jim Clements speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday for the school's new Alumni and Visitors Center.

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overlook the 18th green of the Walker Course and the shores of Lake Hartwell.

The project's total cost estimate previously sat at \$45.8 million, but with rising costs of materials, it has increased by nearly \$10 million. It's now expected to be funded by \$12 million in gifts and \$44 million in state institution bonds — with \$2.6 million worth of those funded through the lease that CUF will pay for its space. The project will also free up 50,000 square feet of space in the core campus.