

Ground Breaking
Jean Anderson Morgan Student Activities Center
Expansion Project
August 16, 2018
11am

Microphone Test at 9:45am

Meet Chancellor and Joyce and Legislative Delegation at my office at between 10:15 and 10:30am

Arrive at tent in quad at 10:50am

Welcome – Bob

Good morning, I am Bob Boehmer and it is my sincere honor to serve each and every one of you as president of East Georgia State College.

Welcome, to our campus in the pines. This campus is your campus and it is always a great day when we come together as a community.

Today is just one day short of one year following the day when we all stood together in the incredibly hot East Georgia sun to celebrate the expansion of our academic building. The spring before that, we gathered in the lobby of Bobcat Villas West to celebrate our newest residence hall. Today, our East Georgia State College family gathers once again --- thankfully with a

little less blazing heat – to celebrate three more important leaps forward:

- The expansion of our JAM Center
- The generous gift to our foundation by the Gambrell Family of an additional 138 acres of land; and
- The 30th anniversary of the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center.

It is deeply important to me that all of you take your valuable time on so many occasions like this to come to our campus in the pines. Thank you! Today, we also celebrate you!

To begin our celebration, Reverend Bennie Brinson, our emeritus vice president of student services, will deliver our invocation as we all stand together.

Following Reverend Brinson, we are proud to have one of our amazing students, Teiana Green, an active member of the National Guard, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Reverend Bennie Brinson

Pledge of Allegiance – Teiana Green

Introductory Comments – Bob

This is welcome week at the college. We are welcoming a total of 3090 students to our three campuses this fall. Those amazing students are represented today by Student Government Association President, Krystal Perry. About 437 of those students will be living just across Ezra Pond in Bobcat Villas,

which is filled to capacity again this fall. The success of all 3,000 + of these students and the contributions to this great community which will follow their graduation are why we are all here today.

The expansion of our student center for which we break ground today will add over 15,000 square feet of space designed by Cogdell & Mandrala Architects to a building named in honor of Jean Anderson Morgan, a long time benefactor of the college. The student center was affectionately and spontaneously named “the JAM” by our students at its dedication in 2012. Jean, who now lives in Tennessee, would be so proud to see this dramatic expansion of learning and activity space for students because success in life of East Georgia students has always been her passion.

This expansion is made possible by the visionary leadership of the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Dr. Steve Wrigley, the support of our Board of Regents represented today by Regent Gudenrath and by the absolutely strongest legislative delegation in the state: Senators Jack Hill and Jesse Stone and Representative Butch Parrish. As a result of your leadership, gentlemen, more than \$20,000,000 has been invested over three years in Bobcat Villas, our academic building and this student center. This demonstrates so clearly your strong belief in the potential of these students.

This celebration is also made possible by the belief of East Georgia college presidents who preceded me and by the belief of our community leaders in the importance of East Georgia State College students to the long term economic and social vitality of

this region. Mayor Charles Schwabe, Foundation Chair Denny Key and former presidents, thank you for your vision and for your belief in these amazing students. Two of those presidents, Willie Gunn and Foster Watkins, have joined our celebration today. Thank you for honoring us with your presence.

Today, we also celebrate the incredible generosity of the Gambrell family. We are standing right now on land which was donated to the college by Luck Gambrell. Students, Luck Gambrell shared with her husband, Senator David Gambrell, a deep belief in your potential. I know your achievements will justify their belief in you. Recently, their family has reaffirmed that commitment to you by donating another 138 acres of land adjoining the college to our foundation. Our campus in the pines will forever be a rich learning laboratory due the generosity of the Gambrell family.

We also come together today to say “Happy 30th Birthday” to the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center. Our Magnolia Midlands Chapter of GYSTC has been a part of our family since June 1997 -- inspiring young people in our region to study and pursue careers in science and technology. Board Chair, Kenny Griffin, Director Erin Youmans, and GYSTC state board chair, Tanya Blalock, Happy 30th birthday to GYSTC!

It is now my honor to turn the podium over to Tanya Blalock. All of our other distinguished guests will come to the podium following Tanya without further introduction. Chancellor Wrigley will then deliver his comments and lead us in officially breaking ground for the JAM’s expansion. After that, I hope all

of you will take time to enjoy snow cones with students in the quad.