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# NKU begins work on building

## Fee assessed since 1990 paying costs

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

A "turning of the dirt" ceremony will be held at noon Wednesday on the NKU campus as work begins on the \$37 million student union.

"The new student union will transform campus life at Northern Kentucky University as much as the Bank of Kentucky Center will transform this region. About 90 percent of our students commute to NKU every day, and this new facility will be a place where they can relax and spend time with friends," said NKU President James Votruba.

The building will hold a 30,000-square-foot eating facility, a Starbucks, a conference area and a ballroom that will be able to seat 900 people theater-style or 600 people during a banquet. There will also be a game room that will provide staging and lighting for performances.

**ADVERTISEMENT** "The very top floor is what I'm most excited about - a student involvement center," said Dean of Students Kent Kelso, chairman of the student union groundbreaking ceremony. "Since I've been at NKU I've been advocating for a space where you can bring different student groups and offices into an area to create a synergy."

At the ceremony, Votruba will speak, a time capsule will be presented NKU students will perform music.

After the program, a "taste of the new student union" will be held by Chartwells, the food-service provider .

Guests at the ceremony will include the Board of Regents, Grant County Judge-executive Daryl Link, Boone County Judge-executive Gary Moore, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce President Gary Toebben, Fidelity's Kevin Canafax and Johnna Fasold of Citicorp.

Also invited are past Student Government Association presidents.

The facility is being funded by a student fee that has been paid since 1990. Ongoing student fees will be collected to pay for the bond issues to complete the project.

The student union will change the completion of the NKU campus. Its site is currently occupied by student parking next to Regent's Hall. The building it will not use the Brutalist style of many of the campus buildings.

"The emphasis is on creating warm and inviting and comfortable spaces in a contemporary context," said principal architect Michael Jacobs of Omni Architects.

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