



Assumption College President Francesco Cesareo makes opening remarks during the groundbreaking ceremony for a new academic building. T&E Staff/Christina Peterson

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WORCESTER – With snow swirling around the shivering crowd that came out for the occasion, Assumption College officials Monday afternoon broke ground on a new academic building on campus.

The planned 60,000-square-foot building, the college's first major construction project since the Testa Science Center a dozen years ago, is expected to open in the fall of 2017.

Slated to go up between Fuller Hall and the Hagan Campus Center, the center is more than just a new addition at the school, Assumption's President Francesco C. Cesareo said in his address. It's also "a visible manifestation of the centrality of the intellectual life of the campus and a manifestation of the mission of the institution," he said.

Described by college officials as "state of the art," the new academic center will feature seminar rooms, common study spaces, and a 400-seat performance hall equipped with high-tech acoustic systems. It will also contain 13 classrooms designed for "group-based learning" rather than traditional lecture-based instruction, said the project architect, Stephen Van Dyke of Nault Architects Inc. in Worcester.

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A wide-angle photograph of a large, modern university building with a mix of brick and light-colored panels. The building has multiple stories and large windows. In the foreground, there is a large, green lawn. The sky is clear and blue.

The new building at Assumption College will house seminar rooms and study spaces along with the performance hall and a multi-function space with room for 400 people.
