University breaks ground on new $100M Pleasantville campus

Pace University last week celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Pleasantville campus and broke ground on the first phase of a Master Plan to transform and revitalize the 200-acre campus.

The $100 million project is one of the largest construction projects under way in the Hudson Valley region.

The planned improvements are anticipated to be completed over a period of five to eight years.

"Today, we break ground on a project that will make Pace even better, not just in terms of modern 'green' buildings, but in terms of what it will offer its future students. Apart from the Tappan Zee Bridge project, this is the largest construction project going on in our county today," said Westchester County Executive Robert P. Astorino. The project will enable Pace to consolidate functions that are now split between campuses in Pleasantville and Briarcliff.

Currently, 690 students reside on the Pleasantville campus and 590 at Briarcliff. The 35-acre Briarcliff campus, which Pace opened in 1977, is for sale.

While no classes are taught in Briarcliff, the plan will allow athletic and administrative functions there to be brought to Pleasantville.

The first phase of the project will entail creation of two new residential buildings, an expanded student center, the relocation of the environmental center and athletic facilities necessary to replace those being vacated at the Briarcliff campus.

Improvements to the infrastructure, more open green space and improving pedestrian accessibility are also part of the planned enhancements.

"This Master Plan is a vision for a modern and sustainable campus designed to improve the student experience," said William J. McGrath, senior vice president and Chief Administrative Officer at Pace. "It will enable Pace to continue to attract and retain high quality students and to fulfill our educational mission."

Attending the groundbreaking event were, from left, Mark Besca, Chairman of Pace University Board of Trustees; Samantha Diliberti of the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo; William McGrath, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Pace University; Westchester County Legislators Michael Smith and Stephen Friedman; Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino; Town of Mount Pleasant Supervisor Joan Maybury; and Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer.