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“PE Groundbreaking”

Transcript

00:00:09:19 - 00:01:55:18

Speaker 1
(chatter)

00:01:56:26 - 00:02:27:19

Speaker 3

Good morning. I'm delighted to welcome all of you to this very special occasion that marks the initiation of yet another stunning facility at California State University, San Bernardino. The new complex for which we break ground today will house the Departments of Physical Education, Nursing, Military Science, and Athletics. A special feature of the 104,000 square foot complex is the 5000 seat Coussoulis arena.

00:02:28:10 - 00:02:58:04

Speaker 3

In addition, the \$21 million project will include the development of 16 acres of outdoor activity areas. There are a few guests I would like to recognize today before we move ahead with the program. Please stand or wave your hand as I introduce you and we'll hold our applause until the introductions are complete. From the office of Assemblyman Joe Baca, Senior Field Representative Joseph Braden. Representing the county of San Bernardino,

00:02:58:20 - 00:03:04:14

Speaker 3

Third District Supervisor Barbara Reardon and District Attorney Dennis Scott Meyer.

00:03:06:18 - 00:03:41:03

Speaker 3

From the city of San Bernardino: Tom Minor, the Fifth Ward councilman. That's our Ward. Ann Ramos, director of Parks and Recreation, John Kramer, superintendent of recreation, and Timothy Steinhaus, director of economic development. From the San Bernardino City Unified School District: Trustee Lew Yeager, Superintendent Neil Roberts, and Assistant Superintendent Hal Boring. From the CSU office of the Chancellor: John Regner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Physical Planning and Development.

00:03:42:03 - 00:04:09:08

Speaker 3

Mike Clevenger, Stephanie Giordano, Patricia Morgan, and Herb Sitemap, also from Physical Planning and Development. From the University Advisory Board, well, we have Nick Castelis here from the University Advisory Board, and we're going to be hearing more about Nick later, so I'll postpone that. I think we may also have Bruce Varner and Jim Robinson from the board. From the Foundation Board of Trustees,

00:04:09:08 - 00:04:41:25

Speaker 3

We have Ron Skipper and Dennis Surette and Lawrence Daniels. From the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Don Beard. From the California Collegiate Athletic Association, we have the commissioner, Tom Morgan, I believe, who is here with us from Long Beach today. We're very pleased to have with us today also representatives of Prime Ticket. This all-sports cable TV network, which comes to us here in San Bernardino on Channel 14 or 15, is filming today's event for possible airing on their network.

00:04:42:06 - 00:05:14:04

Speaker 3

And the university is in exploratory conversations with Prime Ticket concerning possible events coverage in Coussoulis Arena. Next, the many people who will see to it that this beautiful facility becomes a reality: from our university, David Demorrow, Vice President for Administration and Finance. William Shum, director of Physical Planning and Development. From Cal Pack Construction, Craig Heller, vice president of operations and his associates Franz Bigelow and Bob Diamond.

00:05:14:28 - 00:05:19:05

Speaker 3

The project site team, Tony Simpson and Jim Wong.

00:05:21:17 - 00:05:25:17

Speaker 3

From CRSS Architects, Bill Caskey and Hugh Fine.

00:05:27:20 - 00:05:58:05

Speaker 3

And we have representatives from a number of the subcontractors, and I will just read the names of those companies: Performance Construction, Security Electric, Pangborn Plumbing, Western Electric, Cisco and Hennessey, Douglas Bender and Associates, Associated Engineers, Geo Base Johnson and Nielsen and the Dike Partnership. We're also very pleased to have here with us Tom Yucca from the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce; he's the man in the red jacket.

00:05:58:05 - 00:06:11:19

Speaker 3

He's one of the chamber ambassadors. We're honored by the presence of all of you in the audience today, and we thank you for joining us. Please welcome now the president of the university, Dr. Anthony Evans.

00:06:22:10 - 00:06:55:24

Speaker 4

I join Vice President Reimer in welcoming you to this very special event. Others will comment on the facility itself and noted significance to our academic and athletic programs. I want to focus my remarks on one of Cal State's most loyal and supportive graduates whose generous gift has helped to ensure the success of this project. Nick Coussoulis, a 1975 geography graduate of Cal State

00:06:55:24 - 00:07:40:25

Speaker 4

San Bernardino, has been a long time supporter of and contributor to our university. As Judy mentioned, he currently serves on our University Advisory Board, on the School of Business and Public Administration Board of Councilors, and is a past co-chair of the Annual Fund Drive here at the University. When Nick decided several years ago that he wanted to increase his financial support for the university and honor his parents, Jim James and Aerialanthe Coussoulis, he considered several options before selecting the arena.

00:07:41:26 - 00:08:20:09

Speaker 4

As you all know, it was designated the James and Aerialanthe Coussoulis Arena by the California State University Board of Trustees last May, and will serve as a reminder for decades to come of Nick's gratitude to his parents, of his generosity to the university and of the Coussoulis family's deep belief in education. Nick has earned a place as one of the leading business people of our region and also one of the towering philanthropists.

00:08:21:06 - 00:08:59:20

Speaker 4

In addition to being the founder and president of a successful development company, he is active in numerous regional economic development organizations. Recognizing his expertise in this area, Former Governor Deukmejian appointed him to the California Council on Economic Development. A long time patron of the arts, Nick has provided major financial support to the Inland Empire Symphony and served as a Deukmejian appointee to the California Arts Council.

00:09:01:22 - 00:09:30:03

Speaker 4

Few things mean more to Nick and his family, his wife Tina, and his daughters Ray and Angela. He attributes much of his success to the support and guidance of his parents, who immigrated to the United States from Greece when Nick was nine years old. Nick's

father worked as a cook, seven days a week, until his employer in Maine went out of business.

00:09:31:02 - 00:10:04:00

Speaker 4

Out of work, Senior Mr. Coussoulis, his wife, and three children, accepted a ride to San Bernardino with the former restaurant owner. Their possessions consisted of \$20 and everything that fit into the trunk of the car. We're indeed fortunate that they landed in our community. I'd like to ask Nick and his family, all members, to stand so that we can applaud their perseverance and generosity.

00:10:04:13 - 00:10:14:05

Speaker 4

And then we will ask Nick to come forward to tell us what this university and the gift means to him. The Coussoulis Family.

00:10:32:03 - 00:10:33:11

Speaker 5

Okay. Good morning.

00:10:45:23 - 00:11:02:25

Speaker 5

Mom and Dad nurtured and protect us children during the Second World War. I can recall many times when my parents went hungry so that we might eat. I can remember their anguish after losing a son and other family members during the course of the war.

00:11:03:27 - 00:11:04:27

Speaker 1

Yet through all the pain

00:11:05:07 - 00:11:18:11

Speaker 5

and turmoil with the war, they always kept the family together. After the war, we came to America with nothing to call our own but the clothes on our back and deep conviction that America would be our land of opportunity.

00:11:21:20 - 00:11:46:22

Speaker 5

As Tony said, my father, a short order cook, lost his job in New Brunswick, Maine. When offered a job in a restaurant in far off San Bernardino, he accepted. He and Mom packed us, and everything we owned, in his employer's car and our journey to California began. Though they could not speak the language, my mother and father were not afraid of hard work.

00:11:47:19 - 00:12:10:21

Speaker 5

Their endurance put food on the table and clothes on our backs. Their love for each other, and for God, gave them the fortitude to raise their children with dignity, respect for authority, and a strong desire to obtain education. My parents sacrificed everything familiar to them to travel to a distant land in order to give their children the opportunity to strive for a better future.

00:12:11:23 - 00:12:25:07

Speaker 5

The greatest moment for a son is to be able to honor his mother and father. For me, that moment is here. Thank you for joining with me and making this day a reality.

00:12:40:26 - 00:12:56:04

Speaker 3

Thank you, Nick, and thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Coussolis, and to all the Coussoulis family for being here and providing so much support. I now like to call on Associate Vice President Jackie Robinson, representing our vice president for academic affairs, Dennis Heffner.

00:13:05:00 - 00:13:11:28

Speaker 6

Good morning. At this time, I would like to, on behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs and also

00:13:11:28 - 00:13:13:12

Speaker 1

on behalf of Vice President

00:13:13:12 - 00:13:44:06

Speaker 6

Dennis Heffner, who is unable to be here this morning with you, extend the welcome and that and be thankful for you for sharing this opportunity to inaugurate this great building that is about to begin. I must tell you that those of us who came to this campus quite a few years ago, what is about to begin here today is the kind of stuff we used to dream about in the early 1970s.

00:13:44:21 - 00:14:19:13

Speaker 6

In fact, there was a faculty member and I who used to stand over there in the top of the second floor of the Commons and look over to this area here and wondered when we were going to have a building over here for that would serve the sports complex. Today, I'm very pleased to see that we are about to begin that building. At this moment, I would like to introduce to you the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Lou Fernandez. Thank you, Jaicie.

00:14:20:16 - 00:14:48:27

Speaker 6

Good morning. This, indeed is a very happy occasion for the entire Cal State community. As a newcomer to Cal State, San Bernardino, I want to, on behalf of my colleagues in the School of Natural Sciences, to express my sincerest appreciation to the administrators, the faculty, the staff and the Friends of Cal State, San Bernardino, and in particular to the chairpersons of the Departments of Nursing.

00:14:49:02 - 00:15:27:27

Speaker 6

Dr. Janice Layton and Dr. Chris Grunfeld, chairperson of the Department of Physical Education, and their colleagues for the many hours of hard work that they invested in making it possible for us to be here today. For the School of Natural Sciences, and in particular, for the Departments of Nursing and Physical Education, this new complex will allow us to provide our students with an education which will have access to state of the art laboratories and contemporary facilities, physical fitness facilities, that will indeed carry us into the 21st century.

00:15:28:18 - 00:15:41:27

Speaker 6

Needless to say, we are anxiously awaiting the day that we could move into this marvelous complex. Thank you. It is now my pleasure to introduce Mr. David Sonora, Director of Athletics.

00:15:51:05 - 00:16:16:11

Speaker 5

Thank you, Dean Fernandez. This is a great day for the athletic department at Cal State, as well as for the entire university. At this point, I want to introduce a couple of people here that are special for our athletic program. And I see one of them standing in the back there with golf coach Bob Smith. Max Alonzo is the president of our athletic association at Cal State.

00:16:16:19 - 00:16:44:24

Speaker 5

Way in the back, Max, if you raise your hand. All right, Jeff Sykes. Jeff Sykes is a relatively new businessman in San Bernardino. Jeff has agreed to serve as the chairperson for our athletic capital campaign. And Jeff's right back here. Jeff, if you would, raise your hand. And we appreciate the help of those two gentlemen for athletic program.

00:16:46:06 - 00:17:07:27

Speaker 5

This is a great day for for our Cal State athletic program and one that we waited on for a long time. This is the next -this facility represents the next major step in the growth of our program. It enables us to do some things that we simply could not do in the old gym. This building right down here.

00:17:08:07 - 00:17:33:08

Speaker 5

And we will remember this old gym with great affection. And we've had some good times in there. But in order for us to develop our program and for the program to mature in a way that is of maximum benefit to the university, to the community and to the region, we need a new facility such as the Coussoulis arena, the 5000 seat arena.

00:17:33:21 - 00:17:58:03

Speaker 5

There are so many things we can do there that would be impossible. In our old gym, much as we as we love the old gym. And the timing, I think it is as interesting, I think for many of us, we've wondered why Cal State did not have better athletic facilities. And I think there were good reasons why we didn't.

00:17:58:20 - 00:18:28:23

Speaker 5

But at this point, I think we're all glad that we did. We're happy. The timing is perfect for this new facility. It coincides with with the growth of our program and the development of our program in a way that simply couldn't be better I tried to think of something, an analogy to make this morning that I could relate back to to coaching and to our coaches.

00:18:29:02 - 00:18:50:29

Speaker 5

And I remembered some advice that my old track coach used to give us before a big races. It was simple and it was beautiful. If you if you follow this advice, you simply couldn't lose. And his advice was to get out in front and stay there. And you can see if you can do that, you never lose.

00:18:51:07 - 00:19:10:17

Speaker 5

And getting out in front was was not you know, we could generally get out in front. Staying there was sometimes difficult. And I think what this new facility does for us, it gives us an opportunity to get out in front and then we can make the most of it and work very hard and we'll try to stay there.

00:19:11:20 - 00:19:37:00

Speaker 5

I want to thank a few people this morning There are many people here that were involved in this process, the planning of the facility, and some, I suppose, that are not here. But those people that were involved in in the beginning when the building was was being planned, thanks to those folks. I also want to to make a special thank you to President Evans.

00:19:37:00 - 00:20:07:21

Speaker 5

I know there were times when the building needed a push, the facility needed a push. And I think every project of this magnitude has some ups and downs. And I'm sure that

this one did. And I know that President Evans was always there to give a hard push at the right time. And so we appreciate that. So on behalf of of hundreds and even thousands of youngsters, young men and women, those that are here now and those that will come in in the future.

00:20:08:08 - 00:20:17:00

Speaker 5

Thanks again to Mr. Coussoulis, to President Evans, and all of those that had a hand in planning and seeing this come to fruition.

00:20:20:21 - 00:20:30:02

Speaker 5

Got to remember my role here. I want to introduce Dr. Aubrey Bonnet, who is the dean of the school of Behavioral Science. Dr. Bonnet.

00:20:37:20 - 00:20:57:05

Speaker 6

Thank you and good morning. First, I'd like to echo the sentiments of the previous speakers and express our gratitude to the Coussoulis family and President Evans and members of the central administration for making this wonderful building finally a reality. An imminent reality.

00:20:59:06 - 00:21:28:12

Speaker 6

The concept of the citizen soldier is one of the major underpinnings of our democratic civil society. And this concept has given form in the numerous ROTC programs in our nation, on our national campuses, young men and women who hold civilian jobs in the civil society and who in times of crisis serve as officers in the National Guard and Reserve Units. ROTC received the Sigma honor, when one of its own,

00:21:28:12 - 00:22:09:21

Speaker 6

General Powell, became the first non service academy member to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Here at Cal State, the Military Science Program was originally established in 1960 when the university established a cross enrollment agreement with the Claremont Colleges. Strong support from the community and the university permitted the program to achieve extension center status in 1981. In the Cold War, the program reached a high in 1988 with four officers, two noncommissioned officers and approximately 80 students participating. As the army has downsized recently,

00:22:10:22 - 00:22:38:07

Speaker 6

we expect the commission, that's the military science program, approximately eight officers. Three of these have been selected for active duty. The remaining graduates will serve in the local National Guard and Army Reserve units, in the local area. We

currently have two officers and two noncommissioned officers assigned with 43 students participating. Five of these are on full tuition scholarships.

00:22:39:09 - 00:23:09:19

Speaker 6

Approximately half of our lower division students are across enrolled from feeder junior colleges and plans to transfer to Cal State San Bernardino in the junior year. Over the years, the program has commissioned over 100 officers, males and females, and this program will be housed as a proud occupant of the new Coussoulis building. I would now like to ask Major Willis, the officer in charge and director, to stand to be recognized.

00:23:10:11 - 00:23:23:01

Speaker 6

Major Willis. It is now my distinct honor and privilege to introduce the vibrant and dynamic head of the Associated Students. Sherri Major. Ms. Major.

00:23:35:00 - 00:23:55:16

Speaker 3

Everyone else who has stood up here hasn't sunk, so if I get shorter, it's because I've got heels on and I'm shrinking a little. On behalf of the students at Cal State San Bernardino, I would personally like to thank Mr. Coussoulis for his generous donation. With speaking with several of the students they're very anxious to see this, the building start taking form.

00:23:55:16 - 00:24:16:02

Speaker 3

And I know with the landscaping that has happened that it's kind of been an eye opening but really how big the health and physical education complex will be. As well as it's an honor for me to be able to see this type of growth happen on our campus. Five years ago, I think all we had was a library and some of these trailers back here.

00:24:16:13 - 00:24:34:15

Speaker 3

And now it's it's kind of the big picture is coming together and I really think this is going to be an excellent added advantage. And I also thank- thank you, Mr. Coussoulis, for sharing your story about your parents because I can only hope that in my future I could do the same thing. So thank you very much.

00:24:46:03 - 00:25:05:12

Speaker 3

Thank you, Sherri. It's kind of nice, the sun decided to come out for us today and make it a perfect day for us. Once again, I want to thank all of you for coming today. Your support means a lot to us, your interest in the project means a lot, we hope you'll keep tabs on it. If this building goes up as fast as Brown Hall went up over here,

00:25:05:19 - 00:25:27:05

Speaker 3

You're going to have to come out often to keep an eye on it. And of course, we hope you'll come out to enjoy the many facilities once the complex is completed. We certainly expect the community to make frequent use of our running track and the many other outdoor activity areas will have, as well as attend many different kinds of events in Coussoulis Arena.

00:25:27:24 - 00:25:52:04

Speaker 3

We're going to move now to the symbolic groundbreaking. I think the real groundbreaking probably got a little bit ahead of us here, but I'd like to invite members of the Coussoulis family and President Evans and Davidson, Rem, Aubrey and Lou, if you'd come forward. We've got some shovels and hard hats for those of you who would like to join in the ceremony of breaking the ground.

00:25:52:09 - 00:26:21:27

Speaker 3

Thanks again for coming.

00:26:22:21 - 00:27:27:07

Speaker 2

(chatter)

00:27:30:00 - 00:27:33:17

Speaker 1

Okay, everybody, step up to the dirt a little bit. Put one foot up on the shovel,

00:27:33:22 - 00:27:34:17

Speaker 5

like you're gonna take a

00:27:35:03 - 00:27:48:11

Speaker 1

good... Yeah, right here. That's it; big smile, everyone. Hold it right there. Let's get one more. Yeah, that's it right there. Great. Thank you. All right.

00:27:48:11 - 00:27:52:19

Speaker 3

Do we have any subcontractors watching to see if you want to hire any of these people for your crews?

00:27:55:29 - 00:28:41:10

Speaker 1

(chatter)

00:28:42:02 - 00:28:43:09

Speaker 1
Everyone grab a shovel.

00:28:46:05 - 00:29:06:07

Speaker 1
Right here. You guys get a hard hat on. Got to be safe. Everyone put a foot up on the shovel. That's very okay right here. And let's get one more. Oh, yeah. That's it. Thank you, guys. Yeah, yeah.

00:29:07:04 - 00:31:21:18

Speaker 2
(chatter)

Talk about the facility and what's going to bring it forward. Well, I think,

00:31:21:18 - 00:31:22:17

Speaker 5
for our community,

00:31:24:05 - 00:31:36:09

Speaker 1
Do outstanding facility with our old gym, that was just impossible. It's about time we put our students in there. Not much room for anyone else. So I think it's a chance to

00:31:36:29 - 00:31:38:01

Speaker 5
really develop our

00:31:38:01 - 00:31:38:20

Speaker 1
program,

00:31:38:20 - 00:31:41:22

Speaker 5
Where you can have a great team. But if you don't have the right kind of facilities, nobody

00:31:41:22 - 00:31:45:21

Speaker 1
knows, nobody can see them play. Can you describe

00:31:46:05 - 00:32:01:13

Speaker 5
what exactly we're going to do here. The the arena is far too obvious to have those answers to us. It's 5000 seats. We have 1000 theater seats. I think that gives us a great opportunity to market those seats. But the 5000 seats- it'll

00:32:01:13 - 00:32:02:11

Speaker 1
be the largest

00:32:03:07 - 00:32:07:03

Speaker 1
indoor facility in the Inland Empire. In fact, I think you have to go down to the.

00:32:08:01 - 00:32:18:07

Speaker 1
Place where there are more than 5000 indoor seats. Talk about San Bernardino. Yeah.
Yeah. I think this gives

00:32:18:07 - 00:32:25:08

Speaker 5
us an opportunity to develop our athletic program so much higher level, and that's all
you can ask for is

00:32:25:08 - 00:32:27:28

Speaker 1
just a chance, and what we make of it

00:32:27:28 - 00:32:47:25

Speaker 2
will be up to us. Congratulations.

00:32:50:27 - 00:37:12:09

Speaker 1
(chatter)

00:37:12:27 - 00:37:14:15

Speaker 4
So our goal at the university

00:37:14:16 - 00:37:28:27

Speaker 1
has been to keep abreast of the growth and the developments occurring around here in
this part of Southern California. And with that growth in the student enrollment, we had a
need for additional facilities. And one of the most acute needs

00:37:29:08 - 00:37:33:20

Speaker 4
was in the area of health, recreation and physical education.

00:37:35:02 - 00:37:45:11

Speaker 1

And we're just very fortunate of what the state has provided this type of new facilities for our students and for future generations of students.

00:37:50:24 - 00:37:54:12

Speaker 1

So there used to be an invite, not only the regional.

00:37:55:00 - 00:38:01:03

Speaker 2

But many more - (laughter and chatter)

00:38:26:14 - 00:51:25:01

Speaker 1

(chatter)