

# CofC athletics receives \$2.1 million gift, largest ever, for baseball performance center

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The new two-story, 11,000-square foot facility will be called the Founders Baseball Performance Center and is part of a multimillion-dollar improvement plan to the baseball facility. Provided.

For more than a decade, the College of Charleston has talked about upgrading its athletic facilities at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. The biggest hurdle for the downtown school has always been funding.

That doesn't appear to be as big of an issue now. [Founders Federal Credit Union](#) announced a \$2.1 million donation to the school on Sept. 27 to assist in the construction of a baseball performance center at the College of Charleston's baseball complex. The gift is the largest in the school's athletic department history.

“It’s a game-changer, we want to continue to grow and get better,” said Cougars baseball coach Chad Holbrook. “I think this changes our brand and the way we can recruit. We’ve had a lot of success recruiting the state of South Carolina, but this might expand our footprint.

“This will allow us not only to recruit our state better, but to go national as well. We live in a dynamic city and a lot of kids want to come to school here. The brand that we will be able to share nationwide changes now.”

In April, the school’s board of trustees approved plans for initial upgrades to the baseball stadium. The initial phase has a price tag of about \$2.5 million and will include a new turf field, new stadium lights and a new videoboard at the baseball field. Construction is expected to start in November on the initial phase, and will eventually increase capacity at the baseball stadium by 3,000 seats, the school said. Capacity is currently listed at 2,000.

The \$2.1 million gift from Founders will help finance a \$4 million project that will feature new locker rooms, team rooms and video rooms with “cutting-edge training technology,” a hydrotherapy training area, outdoor patio and club areas for donors and new coaches’ office.

“We are beyond excited to be a part of the Patriot’s Point Athletics Complex and assist in providing the athletic program with the facilities they deserve,” said Founders Federal Credit Union CEO Bruce Brumfield. “We look forward to partnering with coach Holbrook and his team and the things to come at Patriot’s Point.”

The new two-story, 11,000-sqaure foot facility will be called the Founders Baseball Performance Center and is part of a multimillion-dollar improvement plan to the baseball facility. The estimated \$12 million project was designed in coordination with McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture firm.

“This is about our entire athletic complex here at Patriots Point,” athletic director Matt Roberts said. “This started with a \$1.5 million gift for our tennis center project last summer, and our partnership with the Charleston Battery and our soccer facility. We hope this gift will inspire other to give as well.”

In perfect world, Roberts said the school hopes to break ground on the performance center in 2024. Construction is expected to take 12-to-18 months.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Roberts said. “We still need a little more funding. You can’t embark on something like this unless you have a vision and an administration that supports it. This is the first time as an athletics department, we’ve put ourselves out there in the public for a major capital campaign.

“We’ve been very encouraged by what we’ve received in the first six months. I think it’s showing that there are a lot of people moving here and have a passion for College of Charleston.”

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