



BUILDING EXCELLENCE

A Campaign for the Future of

TUSCALOOSA
ACADEMY





WE ARE
lifelong learners
who strive for excellence
in responsibility,
service, and achievement.

WE ARE
multitalented—
thriving in academics,
athletics, and the arts.

WE ARE
the Knights' loudest and
proudest supporters.

WE ARE
the creative thinkers,
collaborators,
and problem solvers
that our 21st-century world needs.

WE ARE
a community of students,
teachers, families,
alumni, and coaches
where everyone
is known and valued.

WE ARE
TUSCALOOSA
ACADEMY.





TUSCALOOSA ACADEMY

is on the rise.



Our academics are unmatched, our art and athletic programs are thriving, and our community is strong. Over the past year, we have achieved key milestones laid out in our 2023-2028 strategic plan—from renovating our current facilities to enhancing our college preparedness program. We are in a stronger position today than ever before.

It's time to lean into our strengths and achieve new levels of excellence. It's time to build the Tuscaloosa Academy of the future.

We are thrilled to announce ***Building Excellence: A Campaign for the Future of Tuscaloosa Academy.*** Through this campaign we will complete our first major capital project in 20 years. With your support, we will build an Athletic Center that meets the needs of our students and matches the caliber of our programs. In doing so, we will become a school of even greater opportunity and an even more valuable asset to the city we call home.

**WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME OUR PARTNER IN
THIS JOURNEY AS WE STEP BOLDLY FORWARD.**

Sincerely,

BECKIE SHARE
Head of School



DANIELLE MCINERNEY
Campaign Chair

PHILANTHROPY

for the love of our community



At Tuscaloosa Academy, we owe a great deal to the people who came before us. Our founders had a vision for a unique independent school and the philanthropic spirit to make it happen.

Over the years, philanthropic gifts made by members of the Tuscaloosa Academy community have been the single biggest driver of our continued excellence.

While tuition dollars fund the school's annual operations, philanthropic gifts from community members like you provide the next-level funding essential to our ability to enhance programs, grow student resources, and undertake big, bold, transformative capital projects.

YOUR GENEROSITY IMPACTS
EVERY STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE
YEAR AFTER YEAR.

Today, our greatest challenge is tied to the capacity of our facilities. Our dedicated spaces for athletics—a single gymnasium with limited locker rooms and an undersized field house—no longer accommodate our students' level of participation or match the caliber of our programs. Without a large indoor gathering space, we miss opportunities to come together, celebrate all our students' milestones, and share the magic that happens on campus every day.

Like challenges we have faced in the past, this challenge will require a bold leap forward and significant investment from our entire community.

Simply put, we cannot build a new
Athletic Center without you.



By making a generous gift, you will:



Honor all that our past supporters have provided and the many people who have made Tuscaloosa Academy the school it is today.



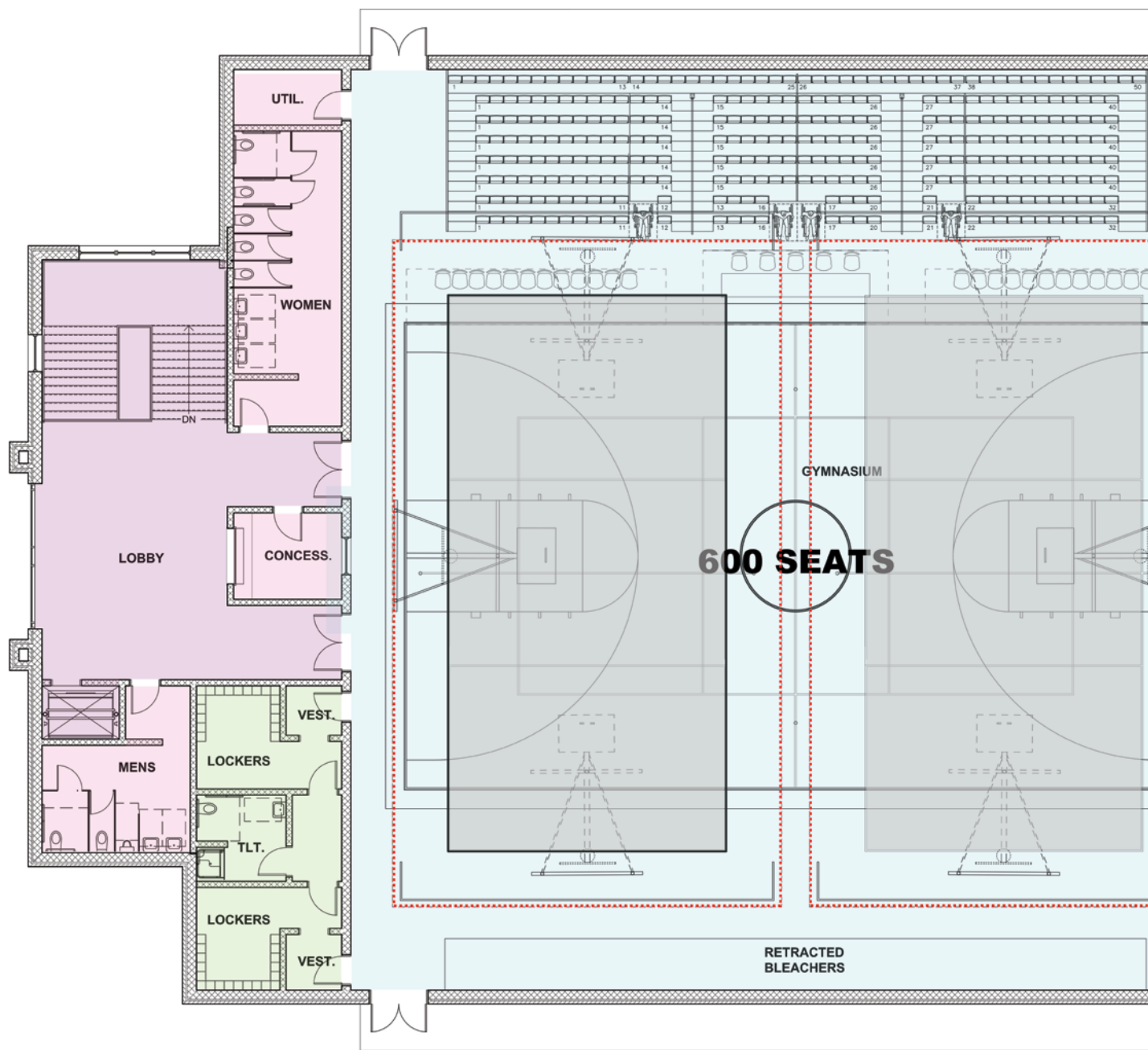
Be one of the philanthropists that makes our next bold steps possible.



Create new opportunities to bring our school community together to celebrate all of our students' milestones and share the magic that happens on campus every day.



Make our students, our community, and our city stronger.

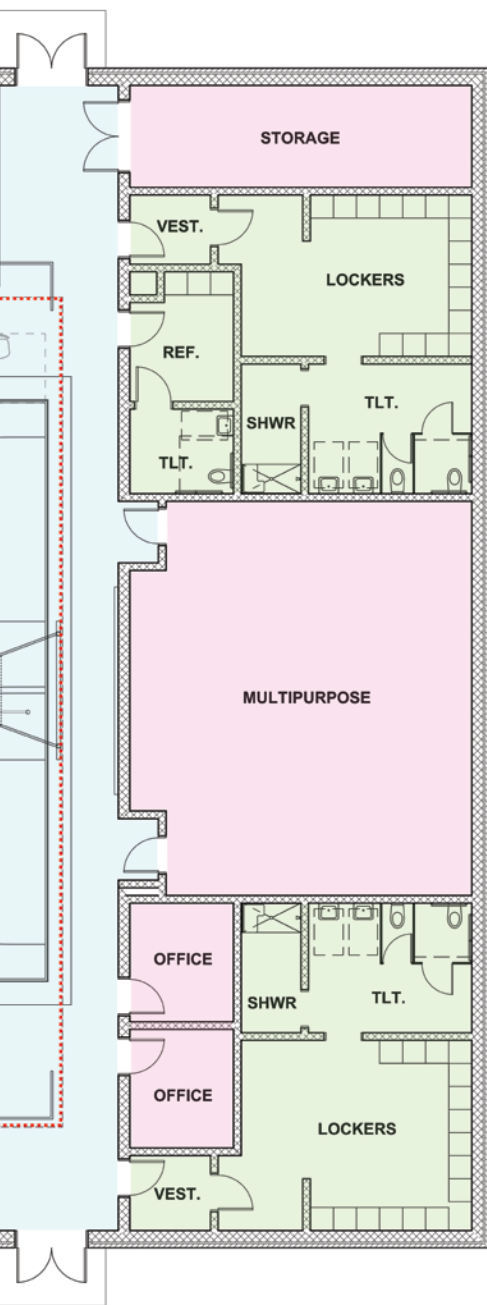


Building the Athletic Center means every student will have new opportunities to experience the physical, social, emotional, and character development through athletics. And it means—for the first time ever—we will be able to provide a great experience for the families that support them, building our school spirit and strengthening our community from the inside out.

BYRON ABSTON, Director of Athletics and Operations

A new gym isn't just nice: it's necessary. It means our teams won't have to practice early in the morning or late at night, no team will lose out on practice on rainy days, and we will finally be able to have more home games.

MOLLY CORDER '26,
Girls Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer



REGULATION-SIZE, TOURNAMENT-STYLE GYMNASIUM

From indoor play space for our youngest Knights to 2A state-championship games, students of all ages will have new opportunities for physical education, training, play, and competition. More athletic teams will be able to practice on campus during reasonable hours.

With the ability to host competitions and tournaments for the first time ever, we will elevate our presence in the region, improve student recruitment and retention, and create new opportunities to demonstrate our school pride.

HOME AND VISITING TEAM LOCKER ROOMS

Students changing in hallways and classrooms will be a thing of the past. With locker rooms for girls, boys, and visiting teams:

- ✓ student athletes will have safe, supervised places to prepare for practice and competition.
- ✓ teams will have a dedicated space for the behind-the-scenes coaching that improves performance, strengthens bonds between teammates, and contributes to athletes' social and emotional health.
- ✓ TA will send a powerful message about the sense of community we nurture and the investment we make in our student athletes.

Renting practice space off campus is expensive, and it places an additional burden on families. The ability to hold multiple practices on campus simultaneously will improve the experiences of TA's student athletes every season, and it will bring balance back to our families' lives.

SUZANNE ABERNATHY,
Teacher and PeeWee Cheer Coach

Our tight-knit community is the lifeblood of our school. With the Athletic Center we will finally have a space where we can come together—kindergartners and seniors, families, teachers, coaches, and fans—to celebrate students at every age and stage.

MARY MADGE CRAWFORD,
Head of Lower School



If we want our student athletes and teams to be successful, we need to step up and give them the resources they need to be successful.

BRANDON AGEE, Parent and Board of Trustee



*There are many TA staff members who work in former storage closets. Everything—from PE and athletic equipment to facilities and classroom supplies—is stuffed floor-to-ceiling in offices, closets, and locker rooms across campus, making it difficult and time consuming to find what you need, put it back where it belongs, and ensure that equipment stays in good condition. **Offices and storage aren't 'pie-in-the-sky' wishes. They are real needs.** Including these spaces in the new Athletic Center will save time and money and help our school run more smoothly.*

LAURIE KEMP, Assistant to
Director of Athletics and Operations

WEIGHT ROOM

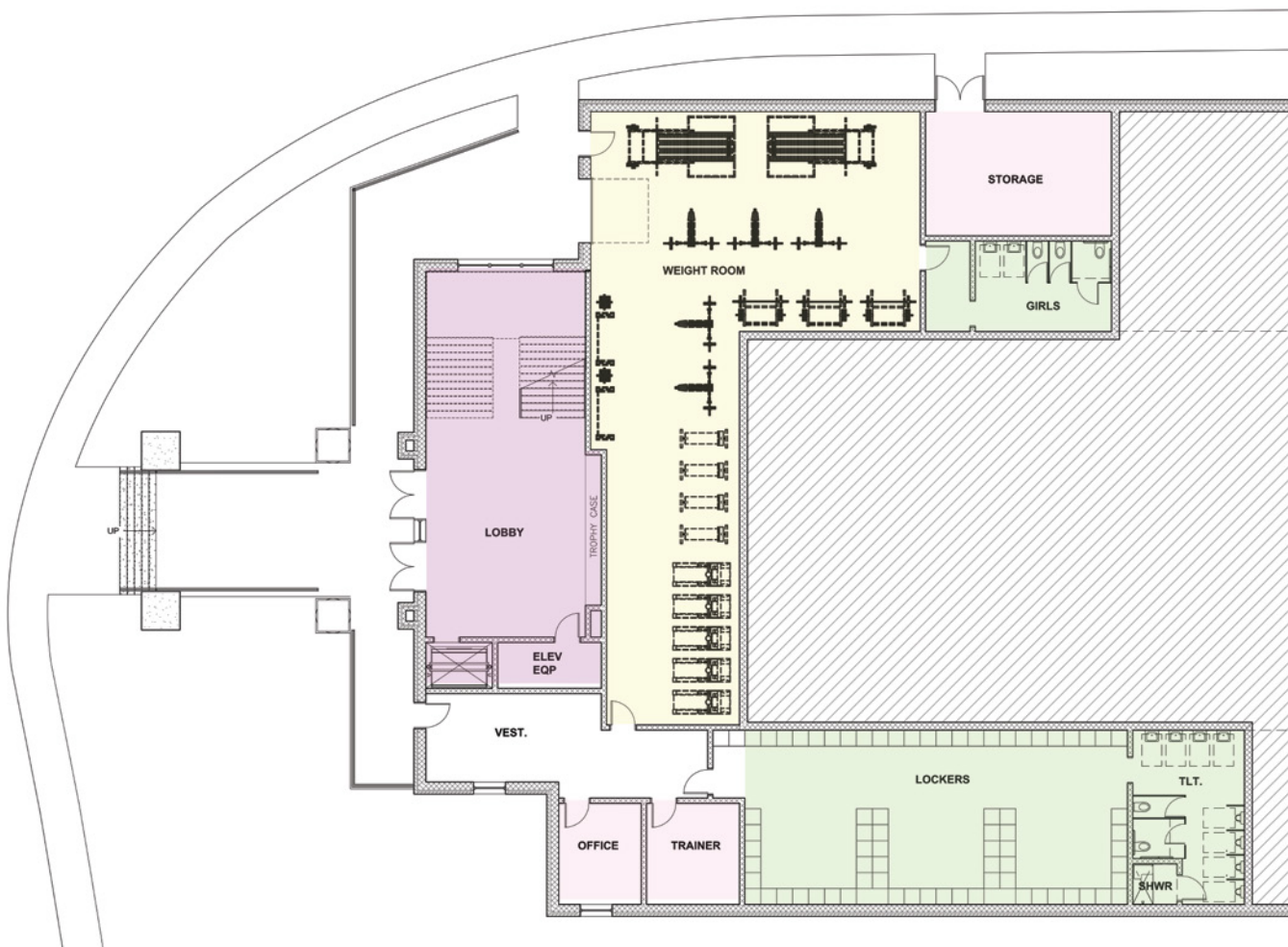
A fully outfitted weight room will enable all TA athletic teams to incorporate resistance training and conditioning. The new weight room will contribute to the development of a more comprehensive, holistic athletic program by allowing us to expand and enhance training opportunities that strengthen players' bodies, prevent injuries, and prepare them for success.

FOOTBALL FIELD HOUSE

Creating an environment that helps students reach their full potential is one of our core values. A field house big enough to accommodate the entire football team will contribute to the development of a more comprehensive, holistic football program by allowing us to expand and enhance teambuilding and training opportunities that build camaraderie and prepare players for success on and off the field.

OFFICES AND STORAGE

Encouraging faculty and staff excellence means giving them adequate space to do their jobs well. New offices will honor the people who are the backbone of the TA experience. Easily accessible, functional storage for all of our programs will contribute to smooth daily operations.



THE **TA** DIFFERENCE



At TA, we not only ensure every student has the opportunity to be on a team. We ensure they have the opportunity to play on a team, and that sets us apart.

BYRON ABSTON,
Director of Athletics
and Operations



Athletics BY THE Numbers

100%

**Lower
School**

STUDENTS
TAKE PE



81%

**Middle
School**

STUDENTS ARE
ON AT LEAST ONE
ATHLETIC TEAM



83%

**Upper
School**

STUDENTS ARE
ON AT LEAST ONE
ATHLETIC TEAM



47%

**Middle & Upper
School**

STUDENTS ARE
ON MULTIPLE
ATHLETIC TEAMS





ATHLETICS

Fall

FOOTBALL

Varsity
Junior Varsity
PeeWee

CROSS COUNTRY

VOLLEYBALL

Varsity
Junior Varsity
Middle School

Winter/Spring

BASEBALL

Varsity
Junior Varsity
Middle School

BASKETBALL

Varsity Boys
Varsity Girls

CHEER

Varsity
Junior Varsity
PeeWee

GOLF

Varsity Boys
Varsity Girls

SOCCER

Varsity Boys
Varsity Girls

SOFTBALL

Varsity Girls

TENNIS

TRACK & FIELD



*When you play a sport, you learn what it means to be part of something bigger than yourself. You have to bring your 'A game' to every practice and competition, and you have to help others stay accountable to theirs. **The lessons kids learn—how to lead, how to care for their teammates, how to rebound from failure—are lessons they'll carry off the field and long past their time at TA.***

DANIELLE MCINERNEY, Chair, Building Excellence



*TA is a great environment to teach the leadership lessons that athletics present. Because you've been together since you were young, you know and trust everyone on a deeper level. You watch your coaches lead by example. At TA, my coaches poured into me. Because of them I learned that leading meant learning how to inspire my teammates and learning how to help them. **My coaches made me the leader I am today.***

JACK STANDEFFER, '22 and Student Recruiting Specialist
for The University of Alabama Football Team





FORD BEEKER

'25



Taking Our Programs to the Next Level

FORD BEEKER '25 came to Tuscaloosa Academy as an 8th grader. From his very first season on the football team, he noticed something different about athletics at TA, and it wasn't just that he would have more opportunities to play. "What really makes a difference here is that you have coaches who are dedicated to giving you the instruction you need to get better. They don't just want you to play. They want you to thrive," explained Ford. "They build you up as a team so that when you look over at your teammates in the middle of the game, you know they have your back. That makes our teams stronger."

Even though Ford won't get to experience the Athletic Center himself, he is excited for the opportunities it will make possible for TA's next generation of student athletes. "We are on the cusp of being a powerhouse program. The Athletic Center will give tomorrow's students the space and the resources they need to take our programs to the next level," said Ford. ***"Shouldn't we want our programs to get stronger and students to have more opportunities? This is our family, our community. That's what being at TA is all about."***



GROWING UP

Blue and Gold



The Blakeney Family

WITH TWO SONS IN THE LOWER SCHOOL, Blakely and George Blakeney are just at the beginning of their TA journey. “Hinton and George aren’t old enough to have played on a TA sports team yet,” said Blakely. “But I value athletics, in terms of how it helps a student grow and in terms of how it brings our community together. There are so many important lessons beyond the game: how to be a team player, how to face the world with confidence, how to handle instruction, how to lose and win with grace. ***Ninety-nine percent of us will not have kids that will be professional athletes. We embrace athletics because it’s an opportunity to build character.***”

With the opportunity to join a team still a few years away for Hinton and

George, TA athletics already plays an important role in their school experience. “Friday Night Lights and game days are built into TA’s sense of tradition,” said Blakely. “These events are about more than the athletes on the field or court. They bring TA families and children of all ages together to show our school pride and support the school we love.”

That’s why the Blakeney family is proud to support ***Building Excellence***. “Having a facility like this will complete the puzzle,” said Blakeney. “We want to be proud of the place where our students are gathering, performing, and competing. The opportunities the Athletic Center will provide across the board will transform the experiences of students and families. The return on investment will be tenfold.”



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Tuscaloosa Academy has made an outstanding impact on the lives of our students and their families for almost 60 years.

Our focus on academic, artistic, and athletic excellence within a tight-knit, supportive community helps every student discover their strengths and prepares them to become leaders at the university level, during their careers, and in their communities.

We are indebted to the visionaries and community philanthropists who led the first Knights' charge and those who have continued to support us with their gifts to ensure the education we provide gets stronger and stronger with every year. They are the reason we have become the school you know and love today.

We invite you to join their ranks and become part of this defining moment in Tuscaloosa Academy's history by joining ***Building Excellence: A Campaign for the Future of Tuscaloosa Academy.***



This is your opportunity
to make a lasting impact on
our students, our school, and our city.



YOU WILL BE THE REASON
our athletic facilities match
the caliber of our programs.



YOU WILL BE THE REASON
our school pride reaches new heights.



YOU WILL BE THE REASON
we become a school of even greater
opportunity and Tuscaloosa's unrivaled
leader in education.



*It's time to
step boldly forward for
Tuscaloosa Academy's students,
our school, and our city.*

It's time for
BUILDING EXCELLENCE

A Campaign for the Future of TUSCALOOSA ACADEMY



AN INVESTMENT IN TA

is an investment in our city



Favor Hinton

THE HINTON FAMILY HAS DEEP ROOTS at Tuscaloosa Academy. Jimmy Hinton's father was one of Tuscaloosa Academy's founders. Nearly 60 years later, Jimmy and Favor Hinton's son, Ford, graduated with the class of 2024.

What the Hintons loved about Ford's early years at TA are the same traits they value today. "TA's size and their ability to individualize instruction in order to meet each student where they are—that was a big deal to us," said Favor. "Because teachers know every student, not just the ones in their classes, the sense of community here is unlike any other. Every year, the school has gotten better.

Today, the Hintons are excited to support **Building Excellence**. "Building the Athletic Center will give TA the space they've needed for so long. It will enrich the day-to-day experiences of every

member of our community. Younger students will have a place to play indoors. Older students will be able to practice at better times. Families will experience a better school-life balance," said Favor. "Our whole TA community will have a newfound sense of pride when we gather there for games and tournaments."

For Favor, the benefits for TA families represent just the tip of the iceberg. "Excellent schools are an asset of any community," said Favor. "The first question people ask when they move to Tuscaloosa is where they should send their kids to school. A strong TA enriches Tuscaloosa as a whole," she explained. "By making a gift to **Building Excellence**, we are investing in the place that gave so much to our family, we are investing in TA's next generation of students, and we are investing in the future of our city."



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