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By 2020, 1.2 million gross square feet of new space for academics, housing, student life, and athletics will be developed in order to address existing campus needs and to enable expanded access to the University. The \$1.3 billion project broke ground in October 2016 and is the largest higher education expansion of its type in North America. Financing was provided by the University of California and Plenary Properties Merced. When complete, the campus will have grown from 104 developed acres to 219 developed acres and every facility will achieve at least a LEED Gold certification.