

For immediate release

**Contact: Dr. Keith Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs
919-516-4859**

Press Release,

St. Augustine's University

“The health and safety of the students of St. Augustine’s University is our number one priority,” stated Dr. Keith Smith, Vice President for Student Affairs.

“On Sunday, February 10, 2019, once the University leadership was informed that Latham Dormitory temperature was low and the hot water needed adjusting, the University immediately responded. The hot water heater had its element replaced and students were able to shower at 130 degrees. The boiler, installed over 40 years ago was seen by three companies. Two said it must be replaced, but the company that installed it will repair it. The university has been advised that the boiler repairs will take 4-8 days and during this time the university has arranged for the students in Latham dormitory to be relocated to a hotel near the campus. The University expects the heat to be back on in Latham Dormitory by the end of next week. The contractor will be working throughout the weekend to expedite this

process. Students impacted have been notified and all related arrangements are being coordinated by the Office of Student Affairs.

A further update from the University:

As a result of Hurricane Florence this autumn, the university discovered a microbial growth on the stairwells in Latham Hall, that were exposed to the rain, wind and other elements of the storm.

The University engaged the services of Raleigh Mold Inspection and Remediation to address this issue. The firm, through its course of action, removed the microbial growth off the walls and steps of the stairwell and applied Bio Barrier mold preventative to the entire area. The University planned to paint the stairwells as a part of its mid-year maintenance during the Christmas break of 2018. Due to cold and wet weather, the contractors could not begin their work until January 11, 2019. Our students returned January 4-8, 2019, and during this time the photos were taken by students and provided to the media. Our contractors have addressed this matter and continue to work with us on renovating additional student living and learning spaces so that our students have a safe and comfortable living environment.

Enclosed are photographs of the Latham Dormitory Remediation BEFORE, DURING and AFTER.