

May 12, 2005

## **Grant MacEwan College receives \$46.1 million for new Health Care Learning Centre**

### **Centre adds training spaces for 2,000 more medical professionals**

Edmonton... The Alberta government has approved \$46.1 million in funding for the construction of the new Health Care Learning Centre at Grant MacEwan College.

The centre will be located on the corner of 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 109<sup>th</sup> Street and will provide classroom and laboratory space for MacEwan's health science programs. The new facility will expand access to health care learning and house MacEwan's nursing program, one of the largest nursing schools in western Canada. The 240,000-square-foot facility will have a capacity to accommodate 2,000 additional students at the City Centre Campus and construction could be completed as early as September 2007.

"The new Health Care Learning Centre will provide much needed space for MacEwan's nursing and health sciences programs," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "As part of an ambitious \$9.2 billion infrastructure plan announced in Budget 2005, construction of this state-of-the art facility will help ensure the province has the infrastructure in place to support the future needs of Alberta's health care professionals."

"One of the top priorities of the Alberta government is to increase access to post-secondary education," said Minister of Advanced Education Dave Hancock. "MacEwan's new Health Care Learning Centre will not only create more student spaces in the system, but it will also help train more skilled and talented professionals to help address the current and future demand for health care providers in Alberta."

"The future success of our health care system relies on the advanced education of our health care professionals," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness. "This new centre will provide specialized training for nurses and other health professionals to ensure that Albertans continue to receive the best possible care."

"This is exciting news. This announcement demonstrates the commitment of the province to ensure students who want to enter the health care workforce will be able to access post-secondary education," said Eric Young, Chair of the Board of Governors of Grant MacEwan College. "This facility will eventually house an additional 2,000 students and will also be a regional training site for Alberta's registered nurses."

In addition to the \$46.1 million in provincial funding for design and construction costs, Grant MacEwan College has raised \$11.8 million to purchase the latest technology and training equipment for use in the new facility, including a recent \$5-million donation by the Robbins Family Foundation.

The new facility will include state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs and the Alberta SuperNet, providing enhanced distance delivery program. It will include a centre for continuing nursing education to serve the 25,000 practising registered nurses in Alberta and will provide training and credentialing for nurses and health care professionals from as far away as Russia and the Ukraine.

Grant MacEwan College has been working closely with officials from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and Alberta Advanced Education on the project scope, and will continue to work together in developing detailed design and construction plans.

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## **Backgrounder**

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### **The Health Care Learning Centre**

The Health Care Learning Centre (HCLC) will reinforce Edmonton and Alberta as major centres of health care learning, scholarly activity and program delivery across North America. The HCLC will expand access to health care learning for all Albertans and address current and future shortages of health care workers.

The 240,000-square-foot facility will provide classroom and laboratory space for MacEwan's health sciences programs, allowing the college to accommodate up to 2,000 additional students at the City Centre Campus. The HCLC will:

- ? House MacEwan's nationally renowned nursing program, one of the largest nursing schools in western Canada.
- ? Include a centre for continuing nursing education to serve the 25,000 practising registered nurses in Alberta.
- ? Provide training and credentialing for nurses and health care professionals from as far away as Russia and Ukraine.
- ? Include access to the latest technology, such as state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs and the Alberta SuperNet.
- ? Enhance MacEwan's distance delivery program.

The HCLC's design will incorporate flexible design principles, allowing the building to be adapted to meet future requirements in post-secondary education delivery.

## **Location**

Scheduled to open in September 2007, the HCLC will be located in downtown Edmonton at the corner of 109 Street and 104 Avenue.

## **Construction**

Grant MacEwan College plans to use a design-build methodology to deliver the project. The college has used the design-build model on the new student residence and the West Parkade expansion. This model encourages innovative and creative design and implementation solutions.

## **Funding**

The Government of Alberta will provide \$46.1 million for the design and construction of the new facility. In addition, MacEwan has raised more than \$11.8 million for the new building through its capital campaign, including a \$5 million donation from the Robbins Family Foundation for the purchase of state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

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