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New Student Union at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Dedicated Friday

McCownGordon and Gould Evans team up with the University to lead collaborative project

Kansas City, MO – The new Student Union at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) will host a dedication ceremony and tour at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 1 on site at 5100 Cherry St., Kansas City, Mo. The \$38.3 million new construction project opened for students at the beginning of the fall semester, a mere 17 months after the start of construction. The accelerated schedule was the result of a collaborative design approach between the University and the local design-build team of McCownGordon Construction and Gould Evans.

Located near UMKC's residential halls, the 109,000 square-foot student union includes a 329-seat theatre, three-story daylight atrium, bookstore, coffee house, kitchen and dining facilities, offices for student organizations and a green roof terrace with panoramic views of the Country Club Plaza, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and UMKC's Stanley H. Durwood Soccer Stadium and Recreational Field. The new Student Union supports a record student body enrollment of approximately 15,300 and UMKC's ongoing transition into a residential campus.

"It is a prime building that is extremely important to UMKC's future," said Paris Saunders, assistant vice chancellor for student auxiliary services at UMKC. "This building is going to be phenomenal for our student organizations."

The Student Union was funded by an increase in student tuition fees, approved by students in fall 2009. As a result, the project was driven heavily by the students, for the students. From the green roof terrace to the successful harvesting of existing trees into wall and furniture features incorporated into the building, the student body emphasized the importance of sustainability throughout the design and construction phases. The project will seek a LEED® Silver ranking from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"UMKC has fully embraced sustainable design and construction principles; achieving the University's second LEED facility and making it a campus showcase," said Ramin Cherfat, Vice President for McCownGordon Construction, who played a significant role in finishing the project well ahead of schedule. "We are proud of the partnership we have developed with the University and hope the students and faculty will be proud of the building for many years to come."

"We have been fortunate to have worked with UMKC for nearly 15 years; helping to build a sense of home for students on campus," said Dennis Strait, AIA, Gould Evans Principal, who was also involved in the recent student housing projects on campus, including the new Oak Street Apartments. "It has been extremely gratifying to see the campus become what the University has dreamed about for years; with the union as a center for vibrant student life on campus."

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Celebrating 35 years of design, Gould Evans has been recognized for its commitment to collaboration and excellence.

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McCownGordon Construction is recognized as one of the largest general contractors in Kansas City and one of the fastest growing companies in the region. Focused on core values of integrity, relationships and performance, McCownGordon is committed to building collaborative partnerships and specializing in construction management, general contracting, design-build and sustainable construction. With strong experience and expertise in a variety of market sectors, the company was voted Kansas City's General Contractor of the Year in 2009 by the American Subcontractors Association. For the past six consecutive years, the Kansas City Business Journal has named McCownGordon among the Best Places to Work in Kansas City. More information about McCownGordon Construction is available at www.mccowngordon.com.