



Michigan State University receives \$2 million in grants for medical college facility in Grand Rapids

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May 11, 2007, GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Development partners Michigan State University and Grand Action, a nonprofit organization of 250 West Michigan civic and community leaders, announced today that the Steelcase Foundation and Frey Foundation will contribute \$1 million each to the MSU College of Human Medicine, funds that will support construction of the Secchia Center, the future home of the MSU College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids.

Located in Grand Rapids, the Steelcase and Frey Foundations each have a long and generous history of supporting both regional initiatives and MSU.

“The headquartering of the MSU College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids and the dynamic synergy between Michigan State and its partners will greatly enhance medical care and economic development in the region and strengthen the role of Grand Rapids as an international leader in health care and biomedical research,” said Steelcase Foundation Executive Director Susan Broman. “We are pleased to support this exciting project that will benefit our region.”

“We believe in the mission and the value of this project to the Grand Rapids community specifically and to medical education in general,” said Frey Foundation President Milt Rohwer. “The goals to create an efficient pipeline for bringing effective new therapies from bench to bedside and to become an economic growth engine by attracting top students and faculty to the region are attainable.”

Grand Action serves as a critically important partner with MSU in development activities for the Secchia Center. Since its founding, the organization has helped identify new facilities that would stimulate economic growth and galvanize public and private support for construction of these facilities.

Past projects include the Van Andel Arena and DeVos Place Convention Center. The Secchia Center will be built within the Michigan Street Development, a downtown Grand Rapids commercial medical community located across from Spectrum Health and the Van Andel Institute.

In 2008, MSU College of Human Medicine second-year students will begin studies in a leased facility in Grand Rapids. The college plans to enroll its inaugural class of 100 first-year students in Grand Rapids in 2010, when the new facility opens. The Secchia Center will include teaching laboratories, classrooms, offices and student areas. Once the program is at full capacity, enrollment in Grand Rapids will be approximately 350 students.

Including contributions from the Steelcase and Frey Foundations, alumnus Ambassador Peter F. and Joan Secchia and other gifts, MSU and Grand Action have raised a total of \$24 million toward the \$40 million in private support required to complete the project. The partners will continue efforts to raise the remaining \$16 million for the development and construction costs associated with the facility.

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