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$22.9 Million Renovation Project Begins at GSU

University Park, Illinois, October 4, 2011 - Governors State University will kick off a new era in science education on October 18 with the groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the start of the renovation of the university’s science facilities. Government, business, and community leaders will join university administrators, students, faculty, and staff at 10:30 a.m., in the F building atrium to mark the beginning of this long-awaited project.

The $22.6 million, three year renovation project will create state-of-the-art education facilities while providing more than 130 construction jobs. In addition to the positive impact the renovation project will have on the region's economy, the building renovation will better equip GSU to educate students for regional jobs in healthcare, computer science, scientific and mathematics research, and science and math education.

"We have waited a long time for these new science facilities that will provide opportunities for our students for generations to come," said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. "The beginning of this renovation project marks the dawning of a new day for Governors State University and the region."

Upgrading its science facilities has been GSU's number one capital priority for the last decade. However, funds for this important, shovel ready, project were only recently released. The Capital Development Board, the state's construction management arm of Illinois' state government, has oversight responsibility for the design and construction of this project.

The university has received support from business, political, and educational leaders, many of whom will be in attendance at the ceremony marking the beginning of the renovation project.

Illinois State Senator Toi Hutchinson (D-40th District), says the renovation of the science facilities at GSU is integral to achieving a well-educated, innovative, and inventive workforce in the south suburbs.

The area to be renovated comprises approximately 76,000 square feet of space. During the renovation, crews will replace HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and lighting systems. Outmoded infrastructure and equipment will be replaced with up-to-date facilities and equipment that will be energy-efficient and meet current codes and regulations. The project design calls for structural infill of existing atrium space, adding about 9,000 square feet of additional usable space.

The renovated facilities will serve students and faculty in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, nursing, communication disorders, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

The groundbreaking ceremony is open to the public. Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, Illinois. For more information, call (708) 534-4130.