News Release

University of Waterloo selects team for Stratford Campus design-build construction contract

Stratford, ON (February 15, 2011) – On February 1, 2011, the University of Waterloo has selected Bondfield Construction and ZAS Architects as the design-build team to design and construct the new Stratford Campus facility.

The building will house faculty, staff and students in the Master of Digital Innovation (MDI) program and the Global Business and Digital Arts (GBDA) program along with its Centre of Excellence in digital media commercialization and research. The 42,000 square foot digital media campus will be constructed at the St. Patrick Street site in Stratford and has an expected completion date of July 2012.

"Over the past 4 years, we have envisaged the home of the Stratford Campus," says Ken Coates, Dean of Arts at the University of Waterloo and the visionary behind the campus development. "It's terrific to see our vision come to life through this building. I'm excited for its development and having students create the future here."

The MDI is a one-year, interdisciplinary program that will bring students interested in leading-edge digital innovations to the City of Stratford. Throughout the program students will consult with both faculty and industry partners. Third and fourth year students in the GBDA program will come to the Waterloo Stratford Campus to experience the latest technologies and business processes for a combination degree of global awareness and digital design skills.

The total budget for the building is $20 million, consisting of $13.5 million for the construction costs and $6.5 million for maintenance and utilities endowment. The project is fully funded through the Province of Ontario and the City of Stratford each providing $10 million. The 1.38 acre parcel of land on St. Patrick Street in Stratford has been fully remediated to the University of Waterloo’s standards and is ready for construction to begin this spring.

About Waterloo Stratford Campus
The University of Waterloo Stratford Campus is focused on undergraduate, graduate and executive education programs, research, commercialization and community outreach. This collaborative, strategic partnership between the City of Stratford and the University of Waterloo will bring students, leading researchers, businesses and entrepreneurs together to create, examine and commercialize opportunities in the digital media space. The campus will lead an evolution in learning and career preparation. Students will be immersed in a rich, technology-driven environment where theory and practice, science and commerce, creativity and innovation merge to forward digital media. www.stratfordcampus.uwaterloo.ca

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