

ALGONQUIN
MT. VERNON
O'FALLON
OAK BROOK
PEORIA



1211 WEST 22ND STREET
OAK BROOK, IL 60523
630.574.8300
630 574 0202 FAX

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED "SPECIAL RECOGNITION SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION" AWARD BY CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Oak Brook, Illinois
March 1, 2006

Unity Junior High School, designed by FGM Architects Engineers Inc. has been awarded the *Special Recognition School Construction Award* by the Illinois Capital Development Board's (CDB) 2006 Pride In Partnership Award program.

The CDB Pride in Partnership Awards, formerly the Madigan Award, focuses on the contributions and benefits that partnering brings to the successful outcome of a project.

Cicero School District 99's Unity Junior High, the largest Junior High School in the State of Illinois, was delivered on-time and under-budget due to the partnership of the State of Illinois, School District 99, the Construction Manager (The George Sollitt Construction Company), the FGM design team and consultants (Mattson Associates LTD., Rubinos & Mesia Engineers, Inc., Stern Corporation, Divane Brothers Electric Company and Capitol Mechanical Industries, Inc.) working together as a team.

This urban school district faced rapid student population growth (approximately 500 students annually for the last ten years) and little available land. The district needed a junior high school that could accommodate projected growth and serve as "a symbol of community change and commitment to children." Issues involved in the design process included educational delivery, reclamation of a brownfield site, designing a very large school as a smaller learning community and addressing issues of accessibility, safety and security.

The new 442,000 square foot junior high school is comprised of two 1800-student schools, joined together to share a single site, student commons, media center and a physical education complex comprised of 12 teaching stations. Each 1800-student school has its own administrative and public entrance, and is made up of four 450-student schools-within-a-school, comprised of 15 classrooms, one multipurpose room for art and music, one computer lab, two science laboratories, teacher workroom, restrooms, and administration area. A student will stay with the team of teachers within their school-within-a-school for the two years (7th and 8th grade) that they attend.

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ARCHITECTS •

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The award will be presented during the CDB Pride In Partnership Awards Luncheon scheduled for Friday March 24th at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

FGM Architects Engineers was founded in 1945, and with a team of over 85 professionals, has established itself as a community-based architectural firm serving the needs of clients in the education (K-12, colleges and universities), municipal (village halls, police, fire, parks & recreation and public works), commercial, state and federal government markets. Crain's Chicago Business recently listed FGM as the 13th largest architectural firm in Illinois. FGM's projects are consistently recognized as award winners, but the truest testament to the quality of performance is the volume of long term partnerships that have developed with FGM's clients.

For additional information, please contact
Caroline Keeley, Marketing Manager
630.574.8700
caroline.keeley@fgm-inc.com
