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Center for Design Innovation Gets Land for Permanent Facility

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – The recent acquisition of land in the South District of the Piedmont Triad Research Park is the first phase in developing a permanent facility for the Center for Design Innovation (CDI) in downtown Winston-Salem.

“This announcement brings to fruition the hard work of a broad coalition of individuals and institutions dedicated to a bright future for the City of Arts and Innovation – Winston-Salem, N.C.,” said Michael Pulitzer, Jr., the chair of CDI’s Advisory Board. “CDI’s new facility will be a place where students can learn and experiment with the intricacies of new digital tools, the future of the global economy.”

“CDI’s staff has eagerly awaited this important milestone,” said Carol Strohecker, director of the Center. “The new facility will support CDI’s dedication to discovering, inventing and developing new knowledge. It will also strengthen our ability to prepare students, displaced workers and lifelong learners with the concepts and skills needed for creative participation in today’s knowledge economy. When the building is completed, it will house full-fledged programs based on CDI’s initial technologies for motion capture and rapid prototyping, which can be important economic drivers for the community and the state.”

Motion capture techniques support animation for films, video games and mobile applications as well as improvements in health care related to physical and occupational therapy. The techniques can also provide analyses of moving or flexible machinery and movements of people engaging in activities such as dance and sports. Rapid prototyping techniques support design and development of furnishings, medical devices and other industrial designs prior to manufacturing through a quick design cycle that includes 3-D modeling of new product concepts.

The CDI was established in 2005 as a multi-campus research center of the UNC system with an Advisory Board appointed by the Office of the President of UNC. Its mission is to create an environment that supports creative thinking as a means of fostering the growth of education, research and commercial enterprise. CDI began initial operations in 2007 at an interim site in Winston Tower and represents an inter-institutional partnership between Winston-Salem State University, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Forsyth Technical Community College. On a project basis, collaborations also include a range of individuals and organizations involved in supporting the Center’s interdisciplinary agenda. Early results are posted at www.CenterforDesignInnovation.org.