



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Himmelman Construction Breaks Ground on Lakewood Montessori School Project

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LAKEWOOD, Colorado -- Himmelman Construction, Inc. (Himmelman), a privately held commercial General Contractor headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado, announced today the commencement of construction on Great Work Montessori School (Great Work) located in Jefferson County at 5300 West Center Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado. Capacity for this new charter school for the first year is 250 students, grades first through third, then growing by a grade each consecutive year. At full capacity, the school will accommodate 370 students through 8th grade and a staff of 28 educators. A ground breaking celebration will be held on site, Saturday, May 20th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Sheridan Boulevard and West Center Avenue. The official ceremony will take place at 4:15 followed by a barbecue and entertainment. Invitees include the greater Montessori community, local dignitaries, board members from Jefferson County Public Schools (Jeffco Schools) and newly enrolled students and their parents. The Colorado division of Vanir Construction Management, Inc. is providing construction management services.

Valued at \$10 million, this new 40,000 square foot, 3-story educational facility will include ten classrooms, a library, multiple common areas, a cafeteria, an outdoor amphitheatre, and 5.5 acres of landscaping. Adjacent farm property is planned for multiple modular buildings and the expansion of their current farming program, with plans for a fully operational farm by year five. Designed by Denver-based MOA Architecture, the project is scheduled to be completed within 12 months.

Founded more than 100 years ago by Italian physician and teacher Dr. Maria Montessori, this renowned educational method is known for encouraging creative thinking, personalized learning, and embracing individuality. It includes mixed-age classrooms and student choice on educational activities.

Once completed, Great Work will offer the Montessori program to a diverse population within a section of Jefferson County currently lacking in educational options for students from low to high income homes. As an additional unique qualifier, Great Work will be seeking Association Montessori International (AMI/USA) accreditation, a rigorous three-year process. If successful, Great Work will be the first AMI/USA accredited public school in the State of Colorado and the second in the nation. AMI was founded by Dr. Montessori in 1929 to maintain the integrity of her life's work and is the governing board of the Montessori program, with AMI/USA representing the Association Montessori International in the United States.

"Research shows that children perform exponentially higher when integrated into a diverse learning community which speaks to the core of the Montessori mission of serving diverse populations. This particular neighborhood is giving us the opportunity to reach a significantly diverse audience," said Amy Malik, Great Work Executive Director. "We are equally excited to have met the conditions and deadlines set forth by Jeffco Schools, documentation showing a minimum of 206 intent-to-enroll by April 1, 2017. We now enjoy an ongoing working relationship with their staff and Board of Directors," Malik concluded. Malik began her Montessori career as an intern then quickly acquired a Montessori Masters degree. Holding a variety of positions, including teacher, Director, and Assistant Principal, Amy ultimately became a consultant for start-up programs.

"As a general contracting firm that focuses on community-based projects, including school facilities of all types, our relationship with Great Work continues to be a source of pride," said Barry Himmelman, Principal and President. "This is our second Montessori school project, the first being the **Great Work Montessori Learning Community**, also located in Lakewood. We feel extremely fortunate to be associated with Ms. Malik and her team of dedicated educators," Himmelman concluded.

Founded in 1955, Himmelman is a full-service construction management and contracting firm, providing a wide range of preconstruction and construction services to owners and developers across the State of Colorado. For over 23 years Himmelman has been establishing a reputation of distinction in building properties for the religious, K-12 education, municipal, and office markets. To view Himmelman's entire service offerings and award winning project portfolio, please visit himmelmanconstruction.com.

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