

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Himmelman Construction Completes Expansion of Award Winning STEM School and Academy

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LAKEWOOD, Colorado -- Himmelman Construction, Inc. (Himmelman), a privately held commercial General Contractor headquartered in Lakewood, Colorado, announced today the completion of Phase III of The STEM School and Academy located at 8773 South Ridgeline Boulevard in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. This award winning K-12 charter public school in the Douglas County School District will commence with the 2016-2017 school year on August 9. A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for this coming Fall.

In 2012 Himmelman was awarded The STEM High School renovation project which included 30,000 square feet of classrooms, common areas, and administration space. Barrons Building Phase I and II involved the transformation of an office building into a highly functioning school facility and included new classrooms, bathrooms, offices, and full security. Barrons Building Phase III included 20 new classrooms, multiple new bathrooms, a new gymnasium, a full commercial kitchen and a cafeteria. The entire expansion project totaled 71,000 square feet.

"As a general contracting firm that focuses on community-based projects, including school facilities of all types, our relationship with The STEM School and Academy goes back many years and is highly valued. Working side by side with their executive team and school administrators, we collectively built a facility that will house and nurture students of all ages for decades to come", said Josh Hill, Himmelman Project Manger. "Our construction team, including Senior Project Superintendent Eric Kriebel, worked tirelessly to meet school deadlines and commencement dates. We are so proud to be associated with such a talented and passionate group of educators dedicated to the advancement of the science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum in the State of Colorado," Hill concluded.

Founded in 2011 and rated A by *Colorado School Grades*, The STEM School and Academy is the first K-12 STEM school in Colorado and the fastest growing charter school in Douglas County. Arguably one of the strongest K-12 charter schools in the nation, The STEM School & Academy's current enrollment has surpassed 1,500 students and the school employs 130 staff members, including 74 teachers. Educational instruction is based on *'problem based learning'* in which students are given problems backed by the curriculum and technology to support the problem based learning. The most recent *k12 Reports from the College Board* shows The STEM School and Academy outperforming Colorado State standards by 100 percent and district standards by over 40 percent in both evidence-based reading, writing, and math.

Dr. Penny Eucker, The STEM School and Academy's Executive Director and a recent winner of the Denver Business Journal's *Outstanding Women in Business* annual awards, was hired the second year of operations. She quickly turned the school from an F rating to an A rating, saving it from certain closure by Douglas County for academic and financial failure. With a goal of adding one grade a year, Dr. Eucker was successful in transforming this learning institution into a K-12 within five years, surpassing all expectations. Prior to The STEM School and Academy, Dr. Eucker worked in the Adams County public school system and opened the first STEM school in Adams County, STEM Magnet Lab, which is still in operations today.

"We really push children in a way that they are motivated to work hard," said Dr. Eucker. "Future growth plans include opening a K-8 charter school by 2018 in Sterling Ranch, a new master-planned community in northwest Douglas County," Dr. Eucker added. She received her Doctorate from the University of Colorado in Educational Leadership, focusing her educational acumen on turn-around schools in the State of Colorado.

The STEM School and Academy's mission of relevant, rigorous, real word education where character is key, offers public tours every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Please visit [stemhigh.org](http://stemhigh.org) for additional information on the school's history, academics, news, public tours, event calendar, and staff.

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 K-12 education, religious, municipal, and office markets. To view Himmelman's entire service offerings and award winning project portfolio, please visit [himmelmanconstruction.com](http://himmelmanconstruction.com).

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