



University of Phoenix to renovate

Thursday, December 18, 2008

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The Sun Courier

INDEPENDENCE:The University of Phoenix will renovate its current campus at Crown Centre, 5005 Rockside Road.

Michael Cantor, chief executive officer for Allegro Realty Advisors, the university's tenant representative, assisted the university in negotiating a new lease.

He said, "The facility will have a more open and collaborative environment for students to interact and collaborate with one another. The open spaces will have more of a retail feel and will provide a student center setting with opportunities to interact in person with faculty and students, as well as to connect into online programs."

This new prototype is being introduced around the country and is the design in the university's brand new Crocker Park location.

Cantor said, "University of Phoenix is the largest private university in North America. One of their strengths, providing higher education services to nontraditional students, is particularly well-served in the center of the Rockside Corridor business district, providing ease of access to the business community, as well as a centralized location to residents of the Cleveland region."

Gina Cuffari, University of Phoenix vice president and director of Ohio campuses, said, "The centrally located Independence facility has successfully provided accessibility to students across a broad geographic area throughout northeastern Ohio. We want to make the space more modern and vibrant to invite many more students into the school."

Construction should begin in the first quarter of 2009 and be completed by the end of the quarter.

"As we evaluated the geographic coverage of the University of Phoenix and the impact of its new facility in Westlake, it was determined that Independence provides a proven and centralized location that is already well-known to its students," Cantor said. "The building owner's willingness to support the university's renovations to construct its new prototype was influential in the decision to stay at Crown Centre."

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