



## University opens Monday

Thursday, December 04, 2008

By **Stephanie Furst** [sfurst@sunnews.com](mailto:sfurst@sunnews.com)

**WESTLAK**The University of Phoenix will open its doors to the public at its new Crocker Park location Monday.

The university will be located on the northwest corner of Crocker Park Boulevard and Main Street, above the Brio Tuscan Grille, H&M and Barnes & Noble. It will take up 9,000 square feet of space. The third floor area is under construction.

"Students will have the convenience of a bright downtown atmosphere," said Gina Cuffari, University of Phoenix Ohio vice president. "The campus offers an affordable education where students have many options. We are pleased to offer our services to residents on the west side of Cleveland."

An Independence and Beachwood location have been available to other communities.

Cuffari said students could earn a degree of their choice and still keep their busy schedules going around schoolwork. She said the University of Phoenix offers face-to-face learning and online access to classrooms.

"Our students are very marketable after they graduate," Cuffari said. "An opportunity to meet new friends is offered. The location is very inviting for people of all different backgrounds and ages. Education is very critical in order to survive in today's economy."

Many workshops and other services will be offered to educate the community on the new campus during the grand opening.

Many activities will be held Tuesday. From 10 to 11 a.m., a healthy living workshop will be offered that will teach the elements of stress management and proper nutrition. From 2 to 3 p.m., seven habits of successful students will highlight how to be successful academically. From 5 to 6 p.m., a generations workshop will be held, which will teach how to bridge the gap between different generations. It will explain how merging different talent and perspectives can improve any work environment.

The workshops will take place in the university's lifestyle center, 38 Main St., Suite 300.

On Wednesday, the community will have a chance to speak with staff members and take a tour of the campus. A meet-and-greet session will be held at 4 p.m. in the lifestyle center. At 4:30 p.m., a ribbon cutting will take place and Mayor Dennis Clough will welcome guests.

Additional meet-and-greet sessions will be at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. in room 301. Each session will follow with a generations at work session in room 302. Refreshments will be served. Each participant must R.S.V.P. by calling Susan Manuel at (216) 617-2306.

"We designed the University of Phoenix grand opening to take place during the Christmas shopping season so we can draw in more people," Cuffari said.

Cuffari has served as Ohio's University of Phoenix vice president since 2006. She was a staff member for six years before taking on her current position. She has served in education for 12 years.

The University of Phoenix offers a campus in 196 locations to working adults. The Crocker Park location will cater to western suburb residents, Lorain County residents and it will be easily accessible from Interstate 90.

Allegro Realty Advisors, Ltd., a real estate services firm, has led the University of Phoenix project as well as many other local corporation projects.

©2008 Sun News

© 2008 cleveland.com All Rights Reserved.