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BKV Group Selected as Designer of the Center for Business and Technology Renovation and Addition at North Hennepin Community College

Minneapolis, Minnesota — September 11, 2006 — North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) and Minnesota State Colleges & Universities selected BKV Group as the designer for the Center for Business and Technology Renovation and Addition project located at NHCC in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. BKV Group was selected as designers for Center for Business and Technology Renovation and Addition based on their team's understanding of the constraints and issues affecting the project, their approach and methodology to the project, their proposed team and the firm's ability to deal with the aesthetic factors.

NHCC has seen a 46% enrollment increase over the past five years creating a significant space shortage. Their current population is at 122% of campus capacity. The business and technology programs are experiencing these space shortages while occupying a building, in its current configuration, is not being efficiently utilized. Of the existing 32,348 sf, only 15,344 sf are being used for instructional uses. The remainder of the area is occupied by groups of shared office spaces separated by inefficient voids and extensive lobby and circulation areas. The goal for this project is to maximize the available educational spaces in the existing building, construct an addition to address critical space needs, integrate leading-edge technology throughout the facility, construct a connecting link to the campus center and complete several building-wide deferred maintenance items.

According to Victor Pechaty, AIA, Senior Design Architect with BKV Group, "The NHCC Center for Business and Technology occupies a significant site on campus anchoring the southeast corner of the existing courtyard. The building renovation and expansion has the potential to create a new entry into the campus from the southeast and a formal edge to a new south campus lawn sponsoring future building sites. This project also represents an extraordinary opportunity to reconcile the existing building with its campus context. New exterior walls, necessitated by thermal and moisture problem, will be more sympathetic to the campus material palette and bring diffuse daylight into state-of-the-art technology classrooms."

Founded in 1978, BKV Group is an award winning 85-person multi-disciplinary firm providing services for a wide range of market segments including Community Development, Corporate, Education and Government. Recent projects include: MoZaic Mixed-Use Development, Silver Lake Village Redevelopment, Edina City Hall and Police Station, Plymouth Public Safety, and Pine County Government Center.

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