



PRESS RELEASE

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BROPHY BREAKS GROUND

PHOENIX (March 24, 2004) On April 1, Brophy College Preparatory will be hosting the ground breaking ceremony on the Virginia G. Piper Center for Math and Science. The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership has designed the \$10 million project, which also includes the Great Hall that serves as a multipurpose cafeteria and meeting area.

Dr. Michael E. Brems, chief executive officer for the International Genomics Consortium, will be making the keynote address.

The Math and Science Center will house 18 classrooms with eight laboratories specifically designed for experimental purposes. Brophy educators will have the capability to perform dangerous experiments in a "virtual" setting. Large interactive-projection screens will provide a safe environment for explosions and otherwise hazardous procedures.

Ed Hearn, principal of the 75-year-old Jesuit school, said, "Students can change the variables and see the results immediately. Some experiments that would be costly to construct can be done for free in a virtual world of computer animation," Hearn said.

Brophy's president, Rev. Edward Reese, said the quality of the labs will be exceptional. The math and science program will now be able to offer student-centered learning groups.

"We want the same quality of teaching for the class of 2003 as there was in 1963, but better equipped," Reese said.

Reese said the most significant aspect of the Math/Science structure is how it will physically unite the two subjects. It will allow for the students to see, first-hand, the integration of the two subjects, and allow for more intensive, focused interdisciplinary-learning.

"We are trying to build a curriculum which shows students that all learning is interconnected," Hearn said. "It will allow us to teach both subjects more efficiently. Keeping the teachers in close proximity to one another is a first step in building a more unified curriculum."

The architects of Orcutt/Winslow have used space to their advantage in the design process. The Math/Science Building will form a second mall area with existing structures for the students to socialize. Pleased with the design, Hearn said it is crucial for everyone to have a place to go that helps him unwind, especially in a school setting.

"It is important in the business of our lives that we have space that helps us to relax. The space between buildings is just as important as the buildings," Hearn said.

Kitchell Contractors will serve as the general contractor for the project.

The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership is a multi-disciplinary design firm offering specialty services including architectural and interior design, and special communications/data systems consulting. Established in 1971, The Orcutt/Winslow Partnership has expanded from a two-architect practice, to more than 80 professional architects, designers and technical staff, making it one of the largest architectural firms in the State of Arizona.