Harris-Stowe to Dedicate State-of-the-Art Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center

St. Louis, MO (July 20, 2009) – After much anticipation, the William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development and Parenting Education Center is now complete on the campus of Harris-Stowe State University. The dedication ceremony and tours for the $17.5 million facility will take place on Friday, August 14, 2009, at 10 a.m., directly in front of the center, which is housed at 10 N. Compton Avenue. A reception will immediately follow.

U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters will serve as keynote speaker for the event. Other invited guests will include Dr. Kathy Thornburg, Former President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, as well as several members of the federal, state and local government.

Construction on the 50,000 square-foot building began less than a year ago and was completed on time and on budget this month. The facility will meet the needs of four learning groups: young children, young parents, workers in the field of Early Childhood Education and HSSU Early Childhood Education majors. The program is designed to encourage healthy child development during a child’s fastest-growing life period.

Dr. Patricia Johnson, Director of the Early Childhood Center and Program, said “The center will provide a comfortably furnished resource library for parents where they can read or borrow research-based materials on child development and child-rearing practices to help increase their knowledge and strengthen their parenting skills.”

“This building will not only serve the Harris-Stowe community, but the entire St. Louis community overall,” said Dr. Henry Givens Jr., President of Harris-Stowe. “We’ve been working on this building and this early childhood model for many years. Now that it is finally constructed, we are confident that it is a high-quality program that provides educational experiences our children need, and we are prepared to offer these services.”

The unique design of the building was created by architectural firm KAI Design & Build and Design Consultant Adrian Luchini.

The University is seeking silver LEED certification for the building, which has many environmentally friendly aspects that make it unlike any other child care facility in the nation.
KWAME Building Group Inc. of St. Louis was the construction manager and owner’s representative on the project. Kozeny-Wagner Inc. of Arnold, MO, was the general contractor.

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a four-year institution that offers 12 degree programs in the areas of early childhood education, elementary education, middle school/junior high education, secondary education, business administration, information sciences and computer technology, health care management, hospitality and tourism, accounting, criminal justice, professional interdisciplinary studies and urban education. Ranked by *U.S. News* as one of America’s Best Colleges in the Midwest, the university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable baccalaureate degree in the metropolitan area.

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