

# ACAI NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## Center for Collaborative Research at Nova Southeastern University Continues Medical Center's Vision

Fort Lauderdale, FL (January 2008) -- "Success in any enterprise requires focused zeal, clear-cut goals, a collaborative process, technical effectiveness and willing principals -- and each must complement the others. Success is rarely an accident, especially in architecture," states Adolfo Cotilla, AIA, president of ACAI Associates, an award-winning, full-service architecture firm headquartered in South Florida.

The synergy between Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and ACAI Associates is testimony to these characteristics of a successful alliance. Theirs is a flourishing relationship that is paying big dividends for the University's students and researchers, as well as the State of Florida and the medical community.

Nova Southeastern University recently announced that ACAI -- a minority-owned company with extensive experience in architecture, master planning, programming, and construction management -- was awarded the contract to design the forthcoming 315,000-square-foot Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) on the 250-acre main campus. The \$70 million, state-of-the-art project, earmarked for completion in 2009, will house the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, offices for the United States Geological Survey (for their involvement with the Everglades Restoration Project), and NSU's Office of Information Technology. ACAI also will design cross-discipline research laboratory space to accommodate programs tied to dental medicine, pharmacy, optometry, oceanography, and other medical science and medicine disciplines. The CCR will be linked with Florida LambdaRail services (a high-capacity research network).

Cotilla and his architecture team are very familiar with the medical campus, having designed its state-of-the-art Health Professions Division Campus in 1996. That \$40 million, 800,000-square-foot project included 11 auditoriums with distance-learning video conferencing and computer hook-up capabilities; a full medical library; wet laboratories; teaching classrooms; a teaching clinic component; areas for administration, food service, student services, a museum, nurses and custodial services; its own physical plant; and a connected parking garage for 1,500 spaces.

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The logo for ACAI Associates, featuring the word "acai" in a lowercase, red, sans-serif font.

While each major component of the CCR is unquestionably high-tech, that's where the comparisons stop. Each tenant's area of focus varies radically from the others; hence, design demands are heightened for each occupant of the CCR, while parallel programming efforts are made to mesh the users into a cohesive research campus.

For example, the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research, established in 1959, has as its principal goal development of cancer therapies targeting tumors, with minimal cellular damage and toxicity to the patient. Its long-standing relationship with the National Cancer Institute and The National Institute of Health provides support for the advancement and development of these kinds of promising new investigational therapies. In addition to programming various other laboratory functions into the design of this high-tech component of the CCR, a 27,000-square-foot area for a vivarium will include several laboratories for working with animals, including all elements necessary to assure the health, safety and welfare of researchers and staff.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) will also be a tenant of the CCR. As the country's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS collects, monitors, analyzes and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues and problems. The USGS carries out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations and provides scientific information to resource managers, planners and other customers. Their efforts in the CCR will be principally tied to ongoing efforts and strategies to restore and protect the Everglades ecosystem.

Utilizing next-generation network technologies, protocols and services, the Florida LambdaRail (FLR) was created to provide Florida university faculty members, researchers and students opportunities to collaborate with colleagues around the world on leading-edge research, education and economic-development projects. The FLR is complementary to a national high-speed research network initiative for research universities and technology companies. Integrating with all research and medical disciplines housed on the NSU campus, this high-tech component will be brought to its full potential in the new cutting-edge data center (see below).

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NSU's critical Office of Information Technology (OIT) also will be programmed into the design of the CCR. The OIT will house an improved data center that will accommodate the latest state-of-the-art computer technology. The data center will be relocated to the new facility and continue to serve as the central-nervous system for the entire University. Oversight includes NSU's servers; its TV Studio; repair and supervision of all computer and audiovisual components of the University; teleconferencing; computer programming and technical support. Obviously, the Florida LamdaRail will also be a principal responsibility of the new campus home of the Office of Information Technology.

By carefully listening to NSU's needs and aspirations, the ACAI team is already hard at work developing the design for each component of the new campus, creatively merging leading architectural approaches with the realities of the project's budget, schedule, site and high-tech context.

"It's our job as architects to develop this project to its highest potential," states Cotilla. "Working hand-in-hand with the users and putting in the time to fully understand the operations through ongoing projects in these specialized industries, we will create effective solutions that optimize and showcase the short- and long-term goals and objectives for each of the various users housed in the CCR."

"The building components will inconspicuously integrate the demanding, state-of-the-art technology and communication systems, as well as be versatile, energy efficiency, ecological sensitivity, secure, intelligent and aesthetically striking. From the labs, the common areas and the administrative work spaces to the parking and pedestrian and traffic flow, the CCR will be a safe, pleasant and efficient environment that will lead to higher productivity for the important work that is to be carried out in each component of the campus."

ACAI's extensive educational-client list includes design work on more than 40 schools in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties over the course of the past 22 years. In addition to NSU, the South Florida-based firm has done post-secondary work for Barry University, Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Palm Beach Community College and the University of Florida.

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*ACAI is an award-winning, full-service architecture firm with offices in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties. Founded in 1985, ACAI's project-tested architects, engineers and construction professionals consistently deliver innovative, functional, sustainable and cost-effective design solutions. A minority-business enterprise, ACAI has built a longstanding reputation for excellence in the planning and design of universities, schools, local and state government buildings, healthcare facilities, industrial and commercial businesses, and private and public corporations. To learn more, contact Sandra Smerkers, LEED AP, ACAI's director of marketing, at 954-484-4000, ext. 38, or [ssmerkers@acaiworld.com](mailto:ssmerkers@acaiworld.com).*

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