



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sandy Johnson

Phone: 218.740.3669

Email: Sandy@APEXgetsbusiness.com

Website: www.APEXgetsbusiness.com

Essentia Health's St. Mary's Medical Center Honored with APEX Summit Award

Duluth, Minnesota: On July 6, 2023, the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) recognized Essentia Health with the APEX Summit Award for transforming its downtown Duluth medical campus with the \$900M [St. Mary's Medical Center and attached clinic space](#), the largest private investment in the history of Duluth. The APEX Summit Award recognizes businesses or individuals who have made a distinctive and profound economic impact.

“Essentia Health has been part of the backbone of our regional community for decades,” said Rachel Johnson, APEX President and CEO. “The company’s ongoing commitment to elevating health care in the region is widely apparent through the St. Mary’s Medical Center project, which added 942,000 square feet of new, state-of-the-art space, enhances the patient and staff experience and will certainly help attract top talent to the region. APEX is honored to recognize Essentia Health with the APEX Summit Award and looks forward to continued collaboration and growth for our health care sector.”

APEX created the APEX Summit Award in 2003 to acknowledge individuals, businesses and organizations that have made a distinctive contribution to the people and economy of the APEX region. APEX grants the award when a worthy recipient demonstrates profound, breakthrough achievements and innovations, significantly benefiting the regional economy.

Essentia Health received the APEX Summit Award on July 6, 2023, at APEX’s Bi-Monthly Board & Investor-Member meeting. Rachel Johnson presented the award to Dr. David Herman, Essentia Health’s CEO, and Dr. Krista Skorupa, Essentia Health’s Regional Practices Chair – East Market, providing them with a collection of Ojibwe authored and illustrated children’s books purchased from the Indigenous First Art & Gift Shop in Duluth. This collection of books coincides with the Indigenous art, themes and photography displayed within the St. Mary’s Medical Center. “We are truly honored to be recognized by APEX, APEX investor-members and the regional community for the St. Mary’s Medical Center project,” said Dr. Herman. “This work wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our entire community. From Essentia Health employees, our many building, design and construction partners, economic developers, City of



Duluth and the patients we're privileged to serve, the St. Mary's Medical Center is the culmination of endless dedication and collaboration."

The new space will replace the current St. Mary's Medical Center, which was completed in 1923. The project included renovations of existing buildings on Essentia's downtown Duluth campus to accommodate an 18-story hospital bed tower and an adjacent 8-story clinic. With more space to accommodate advancing medical technology, the facility will continue improving the region's availability, affordability and quality of medical care.

The construction began in September 2019 and continued steadily through the pandemic. The project supported approximately 3,300 construction jobs, with hundreds of additional off-site construction-related jobs and 17 union partners in the building and construction trades.

Because the new facility consolidates Essentia Health's overall footprint in downtown Duluth, the project also opens space for further development in the Central Hillside neighborhood. APEX is excited to work with local developers to explore transformational development opportunities that will meet Duluth's evolving needs.

"Reimagining the St. Mary's Medical Center is much more than a building project. It's about how Essentia Health cares for its patients and matching its facilities to how medicine is practiced now and in the future," said Frank Frederickson, APEX Board Chair and Vice President—Customer Experience & Engineering Services at [Minnesota Power](#). "Health care has changed since St. Mary's was founded. Essentia Health's historic \$900 million reinvestment in its facilities demonstrates the company's commitment to providing the highest quality care for our region."

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About APEX

APEX is the private sector-led business development engine for northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. APEX investor-members represent some of the most influential companies in the region, with a collaborative approach to promoting sustainable economic growth. APEX has impacted over 4,340 jobs in the region, resulting in an annual regional payroll of over \$177.9 million and contributing to over \$24.5 million in state and local taxes annually. For more information on APEX, please visit www.APEXgetsbusiness.com.