



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 18, 2023

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APEX Co-Hosts Insider Event at Essentia's St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth

Duluth, MN: The Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) was pleased to co-host an APEX Insider event at Essentia Health's nearly-completed St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, MN, on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. The facility is expected to open for patient care in the third quarter of this year.

"The entire community has been watching the Medical Center's construction over the past four years and we applaud Essentia's work to elevate high-quality health care in our region. We are truly fortunate to live in an area in which health care leaders from several nationally recognized providers continue to drive innovation," said Rachel Johnson, APEX President and CEO. "Essentia's new space is remarkable and at \$900M, it represents the largest private investment in the history of Duluth."

The 942,000-square-foot facility will replace the aging St. Mary's Medical Center, which was founded in 1923. The project included renovations on 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 St. Mary's Medical Center will enhance its patient and staff experience, help attract and retain top medical talent, and continue to improve the availability, affordability and quality of medical care for the region.

The construction project began in September 2019 and continued steadily through the pandemic. All in, 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.

"We are very proud of this project, which will match Essentia's facilities with how medicine is practiced in the 21st century," said Bill Heegaard, MD, Essentia Health's President, East Market. "It's an honor to see this transformational project near completion and we're excited to care for the patients we are privileged to serve in this state-of-the-art facility."

The art on display is a noticeable element benefiting patients and their loved ones by aiding in their physical, mental and emotional recovery. Nearly two-thirds of the artwork comes from local artists in the health care system's service area, with special attention to incorporating Indigenous art, themes and photography. For instance, the cafeteria's design was inspired by the Native American community and incorporates a beautiful mosaic feature wall and ceilings covered in canoe shapes.

Additionally, each patient floor is designed around a visual theme that highlights a notable area in the region, featuring areas like Jay Cooke State Park, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Gooseberry Falls and the Apostle Islands.

Essentia plans to host a public open house event in late July and will release details closer to the date.

APEX was proud to co-host this Insider event with Essentia and thanks them for investing in our region and expanding access to high-quality health care for all. We invite business owners and investors to explore the benefits of opening, expanding or remodeling facilities in northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please visit www.APEXgetsbusiness.com.

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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.