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SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles and community partners break ground on new U.S. Post Office facility in St. Charles

Construction for new post office to be completed in June 2016

ST. CHARLES, MO (Oct. 29, 2015) – SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles, Lindenwood University and the City of St. Charles broke ground today at the new location for the St. Charles Post Office. The collaboration will relocate the post office from its current site at 112 S. Fifth Street to the newly developed University Commons shopping center on First Capitol Drive.

The new post office will be positioned behind Schnucks on 3.83 acres of land donated by Lindenwood University. Construction of the \$5.2 million facility is being funded by SSM Health – St. Louis and the St. Charles County Road Board. It will measure roughly 21,500 square feet with a projected completion date of June 2016.

As part of an exchange agreement, St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles will acquire the existing post office property and use the site for future hospital growth opportunities. It will serve as a key component of the City of St. Charles' planned First Capitol/Fifth Street hospital district.

"On behalf of everyone involved, we are thrilled to finally see this important project become a reality," said Mike Bowers, president of St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles. "Relocating the post office will benefit the community while at the same time give us the necessary space to enhance our health care services in St. Charles. We view this as an important step in SSM Health's mission to provide an exceptional experience and value to the communities we serve."

The ground-breaking ceremony for the St. Charles Post Office demonstrates the vision of all parties involved to provide long-term benefit to the entire area, as University Commons has already become a vibrant, highly successful development that is paying dividends to the city, county, university and region at large.

"This development is part of an overall building block that will see new investment not only here and at SSM Health, but along the entire Fifth Street and First Capitol corridors for years to come," said St. Charles Mayor Sally Faith. "I applaud the many partners who have made this day a reality, by virtue of their long-term vision, partnership and collaborative spirit."

The new St. Charles Post Office is being designed by architecture firm The Lawrence Group and constructed by Alberici Healthcare.

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About SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles

SSM Health (<u>www.ssmhc.com</u>) is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities across the Midwest through one of the largest integrated delivery systems in the nation.

SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital – St. Charles is a 356-bed hospital specializing in vascular and sleep services. The hospital is designated by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center and a Level II Trauma Center. In 2014, Quest by Premier Inc. recognized St. Joseph Hospital as a High Performing Hospital. For more information, visit us at <u>www.ssmhealth.com/stjoseph</u> or find us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

About Lindenwood University

Lindenwood University, founded in 1827, is an independent liberal arts university offering more than 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in diverse areas of study and traditional and accelerated formats, including online. Lindenwood operates residential campuses in St. Charles, Mo., and Belleville, III., as well as 11 regional centers, and 25 extension sites throughout Missouri.

About the City of St. Charles

St. Charles, MO has a proud past and a promising future. *St.* Charles has the distinction of being one of the oldest cities on the Missouri River, and the organization point of the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1804 when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on their exploration of the Northwest Territory. *St.* Charles later served as the first capitol of the new state of Missouri from 1821 to 1826.

Today, St. Charles is home to one of Missouri's largest historic districts. St. Charles serves as the county seat of the state's fastest growing county, at a population of 65,794 is the ninth largest city in the state of Missouri, and is the third largest city in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. For more information regarding St. Charles and the Greater St. Charles County region, access the city online at <u>www.stcharlescitymo.gov</u>.