3 to PhD™: A Safer, Healthier, More Educated Community

Concordia University - Portland

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Concordia University’s deep commitment to the community has already attracted and mobilized many nonprofit, business and civic partners to 3 to PhD.

Concordia University and our partners are leveraging strong community connections, making a significant investment of time and resources to power the success of 3 to PhD.

Of the $43 million in construction costs, Portland Public Schools will fund $27.5 million through its school construction bond, paying for the design and construction of the core K-8 learning spaces. Concordia University is committed to raising $15.5 million to fund the College of Education classrooms and offices, plus the community wellness center, the early childhood development center, and enhanced PreK-8 experiential learning spaces.

Groundbreaking on the new facility is expected to take place in February 2016, with the move into the new building at the start of the 2017-18 school year. Prior to opening, there is much to be accomplished to finalize the design, complete the capital campaign, re-imagine new programming, and launch a governance structure that supports our common goals. This time in the life of Concordia University and its neighboring community couldn’t be more promising... or more exciting! This is the time when we invite individuals, companies and foundations to stand alongside us to make these monumental outcomes possible.
**At Concordia University, we put our trust in the power of education to drive widespread community transformation.**

**“3 to PhD™ is a bold vision to create a safer, healthier, more educated community in our Northeast Portland neighborhood surrounding Concordia University and Faubion School. Because collaboration creates the most powerful results, a partnership between Portland Public Schools and Concordia University draws this unique vision. What’s even better, the unique approach we are creating can provide a replicable model for more communities locally, regionally, and nationally.”**

_LaShawn Lee, Principal, Faubion School_

**3 to PhD™ is a bold vision to create a safer, healthier, more educated community in our Northeast Portland neighborhood surrounding Concordia University and Faubion School. Because collaboration creates the most powerful results, a partnership between Portland Public Schools and Concordia University draws this unique vision. What’s even better, the unique approach we are creating can provide a replicable model for more communities locally, regionally, and nationally.**

**Innovation is at the heart of it all:** transforming curriculum and teaching, re-imagining the basic requirements of high quality education, making available vital services that support the wellbeing of children and their families while preparing extraordinary urban educators.

**Working as a team:** teaching staff from Faubion and Concordia will re-engineer and put into practice ways to educate new teachers for classroom success in an age of advanced technology. Faubion’s Pre-K-8 students will gain the benefits of this partnership, a rigorous, hands-on practical curriculum designed to prepare them with a lifelong passion for learning and the skills they need to navigate a changing world.

**Hand in hand with many partners:** from higher education, public schools, nonprofits, businesses, and civic leaders, we will foster equity and work as a team to enable new teachers to succeed.

**Closing the opportunity gap for NE Portland:**

The 3 to PhD vision will develop and be nurtured in a unique new facility which will encompass both Faubion School and Concordia University’s College of Education, alongside a community wellness center, an early childhood education center, state-of-the-art experiential learning spaces and advanced technology.

The Faubion School boundaries make up the largest area in the entire Portland Public Schools District. Some of Faubion’s 520 students ride the bus more than an hour to attend school. This is also one of the district’s most diverse student bodies, economically and ethnically. Over 80% percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, one in four live in low-income housing, and nearly as many experience homelessness.

**3 to PhD™ doesn’t mean that every child will walk out of here with a doctoral degree - it means that every child will have an opportunity to pursue their highest dream.”**

_LaShawn Lee, Principal, Faubion School_

**A parent of a student at Faubion School shares a story that illustrates how tightly knit the fabric of lives have become in this united community:**

“My son Oliver plays on a soccer team that is mostly Faubion students. Tomorrow there is a soccer carnival at Concordia, so the coaches were reminding team members today about the event. A fourth grade Faubion boy yells out “you mean our school?” His friend says “no, Concordia University.” The boy replies “ya, our Concordia.” Already Faubion students think Concordia is theirs!”

**Why Concordia University?**

Every day, Concordia University is actively demonstrating its commitment to both preparing students for life, and for earning a living. As Oregon’s fastest growing private university, Concordia serves as a hub for more than 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students attending classes on campus, online, and in satellite locations across Oregon, Idaho and Southern Washington. Concordia University, ranked among the top 10 universities in the nation for community service, begins in our own neighborhood with hands-on service leadership, making real the promise of our mission to prepare leaders for the transformation of society.

Our students and faculty from the College of Education have long and deep ties with Faubion, working alongside administrators and teaching staff to realize notable gains in test scores, classroom and playground behavior and health. Other Concordia students from the colleges of Health and Human Services, Theology, Arts & Sciences, and School of Management also volunteer thousands of hours every year in direct service to Faubion School. The university’s involvement will deepen over time as we identify ways to enlist expertise from every department to enrich professional development and planning at Faubion School.