

PRESS RELEASE

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LAKEWOOD, CO**

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DESIGN-BUILD TEAM OF PINKARD CONSTRUCTION AND 4240 ARCHITECTURE BREAKS GROUND ON CSU'S MICHAEL SMITH NATURAL RESOURCES BUILDING ADDITION

CSU Fort Collins — Design-builder Pinkard Construction Company – with team partner 4240 Architecture – has commenced construction on the Michael Smith Natural Resources Building addition.

Located on CSU's main campus, the Michael Smith Natural Resources (MSNR) building addition and renovation adds four stories and approximately 42,800 gsf of new space to the south of the existing Warner College of Natural Resources building. The project will house flipped classrooms, instructional laboratories, a Student Success Center, an outdoor terrace, offices and meeting/collaboration spaces.

The MSNR building addition centers on the needs of the students, from the large auditorium to the flexible teaching labs to the “treehouse” – a collaboration studio convertible to an outdoor terrace. The facility has been designed to tell the story of natural resources, create a teaching tool for students and faculty, and root the project to the place. Natural materials (stone and wood) and natural elements (sun and wind) are incorporated throughout the student experience with an emphasis on building collaboration, curiosity and community. The addition will serve as the focus of community outreach and student engagement, and will allow the college to grow its reach, enrich education, propel discovery, and increase its impact on the world.

Adjacent to University Avenue, the tight project site is currently undergoing a phased excavation and shoring process in preparation for site utilities and micro-pile construction. The excavation site is a 65-foot by 110-foot area tightly bordered by the existing Warner College of Natural Resources building, a utility tunnel and an electrical vault. The current work plan includes closing University Avenue to provide for ample crane movement, concrete truck access and materials storage. A new pedestrian transit way has been incorporated on the south side of University Avenue.

Total project budget is estimated at \$20.2 million with funding through donations, including a catalyst gift from the College's namesake, Ed Warner, and a naming gift from natural gas entrepreneur Michael Smith, Student Facility Fees and University Resources.

The original Warner College of Natural Resources building was constructed in 1975, and has had no significant renovation or additions. A space analysis determined that the College was operating at a significant deficit for the curriculum, enrollment, faculty numbers and level of research – including a high space shortage of instructional laboratories, laboratory service, classrooms, study space and meeting space. As a result, this project mainly focuses on solutions for the classroom, instructional lab, study, exhibit and lounge/meeting space deficits.

Pinkard and 4240 were awarded the lump sum design-build contract following a lengthy design-build competition that included numerous collaborative design-build workshops with CSU, the College, and its many user groups. The award was based upon a best value proposition that included design aesthetics, add alternates and final price.

Pinkard Construction Company is a Colorado-based, family and employee-owned design-builder in business in the Colorado Front Range since 1962. With 14 projects on CSU's main campus since 1963, Pinkard Construction Company is considered a leader in Colorado higher education construction. Pinkard's most recent design-build project for CSU – South College Avenue Parking Garage – was just awarded the Design-Build Institute of America's *Design Excellence Award* by DBIA's Rocky Mountain Chapter. In 2003, Pinkard's Plant Science Building renovation at CSU was awarded Associated Builders and Contractors' *National Excellence in Construction Eagle* award; and again in 2012 for CSU's Morgan Library renovation addition. www.pinkardcc.com

4240 Architecture's celebrated work includes over 1.2m sf of Higher Education projects with market influences ranging from mixed-use urban infill, multi-family residential, commercial, government, and resort hospitality.

Awards include the 2016 AIA Colorado Award of Merit for The Pavilion at CSU's Laurel Village, the 2014 SCUP/AIA-CAE Excellence in Architecture Award for CSU's Durrell Dining and Student Center and the 2014 DBIA National Award of Merit for Education Facilities at CU's Kittredge Central, West and Community Commons. Clients include East West Partners, McWhinney, and Walt Disney Imagineering. Learn more at www.4240architecture.com

Warner College of Natural Resources was one of the country's first programs established to meet the needs of resource managers and advance the field of forestry early in the 20th century. The College played a major role in the development of ecosystem science during the 1970's and has continued to be at the forefront of research in global change science, forestry, watershed, wildlife biology, geosciences, restoration ecology, and tourism.