



News Release

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Madonna University Garners \$1.5 Million Kresge Challenge Grant Grant to support the University's *Leading the Way* Campaign

LIVONIA, Mich. – Madonna University has received a \$1.5 million challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation, of Troy, Mich., to support construction of its environmentally-friendly, \$20 million Science and Media Building. To meet the challenge, Madonna will raise \$3.25 million by January 2010, as part of the University's *Leading the Way* Capital Campaign.

Madonna's new "green" building will provide the University's growing science program with laboratories that exceed nationally recognized standards for higher education, along with state-of-the-art production facilities that meet the highly technical demands of its broadcast and cinema arts program. At nearly 60,000 square feet, it will be a significant addition to the campus, housing instructional laboratories in the physical and biological sciences, classrooms, seminar rooms, a lecture hall and a high-definition media studio.

"In the new building, our broadcast and cinema arts students will create movies and commercials with the latest digital production equipment, so that as graduates they are well-equipped to make their mark on Michigan's burgeoning film industry and beyond," said Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna University president. "In addition, the science laboratories will facilitate undergraduate student/faculty research and prepare our nursing, education, pre-med and other pre-professional students to meet employers' requirements for graduates with strong science backgrounds."

In keeping with the University's Franciscan values, Madonna leaders were committed to constructing a sustainable building that would preserve, beautify and enhance the campus for generations to come. Recycled materials, energy efficient windows and lighting, a "green" roof and other environmentally-friendly construction elements will enable Madonna to qualify the building for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Madonna's Science and Media Building is the city of Livonia's first LEED-certified building.

"A challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation is an endorsement of Madonna's vision and mission and an indication they believe in our success," said Sr. Rose Marie. "We are grateful for this rare opportunity, and we see it as an incentive for increasing alumni and community support for Madonna's needed academic building – the first new stand-alone building on campus in 40 years."

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Known for funding transformative projects, The Kresge Foundation historically has supported new facilities and endorsed environmentally sustainable construction practices. Madonna's Science and Media Building, as well as a number of the University's highly-regarded programs, match Kresge's fields of interest in education, community development, and the environment.

Madonna's commitment to diversity, opportunity, and environmentally sustainable construction and development strengthened its candidacy for the Kresge grant. In a letter to Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, The Kresge Foundation President and CEO Rip Rapson outlined the merits of Madonna's request for support. "We are especially pleased with your commitment to the hearing impaired and Deaf community, your commitment to environmental sustainability, and your role as an anchor institution in Southeast Michigan producing first generation college graduates," Rapson wrote.

Launched in 2006 with a goal of \$50 million, Madonna University's *Leading the Way* Campaign seeks to raise funds for the Science and Media Building, endowed chairs, academic programs and facility renewal to ensure that Madonna's intellectual legacy continues to grow. Campaign commitments to-date total more than \$14 million. For more information about *Leading the Way*, visit www.madonna.edu and click on support Madonna.

About the Kresge Foundation: The Kresge Foundation is a national, private foundation that seeks to influence the quality of life for future generations by creating access and opportunity in underserved communities, improving the health of low-income people, supporting artistic expression, assisting in the revitalization of Detroit, and advancing methods for dealing with global climate change.

Considered one of the most selective and prestigious foundations in the United States, The Kresge Foundation awarded 283 grants totaling \$178.5 million in 2007.

About Madonna University: Madonna University (www.madonna.edu), Michigan's most affordable, independent, Catholic, liberal arts university, is conveniently located at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, with centers in Orchard Lake, Southwest Detroit, Gaylord and Macomb. Celebrating more than 70 years of academic excellence, Madonna offers 75-plus undergraduate and 27 graduate programs, in the colleges of nursing and health, education, science and math, arts and humanities, social sciences, and the school of business. Madonna recently launched its first doctorate program in nursing practice.

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