



MEDIA CONTACT: Heather West, 612-724-8760, heatherwest@earthlink.net

Wausau Provides High-Performance Window System for High-Performance Medical Center – University of Maryland’s The Weinberg Building



Wausau, Wis. – Wausau Window and Wall Systems provided an integrated, high-performance window system with custom aluminum accents for The Weinberg Building, University of Maryland Medical System’s recent addition and newest critical care facility. Named in honor of Harry and Jeanette Weinberg, the \$150 million medical center is part of the UMMS extensive revitalization effort on Baltimore’s West Side.

Designed collaboratively by Perkins & Will and Kohn Pederson Fox (KPF), along with the Design Collective of Baltimore, the new facility helps alleviate the space squeeze of its predecessor. Completed in 2003, the new, nine-story, 380,000-square-foot building includes a consolidated emergency department with 25% more beds, the new Greenebaum Cancer Center, an expanded diagnostic and imaging department, a new food court, a chapel, a patient and employee resource centers, and one the nation’s most technologically advanced surgical facilities.

According to KPF, “The design emphasizes a patient-focused environment. A vertical, glazed stair tower marks the emergency entry and symbolizes the hospital to those approaching from the west. A sky lit interior atrium, enclosing landscaped garden terraces serve as waiting areas (and) becomes the focus of new and existing buildings. The atrium provides a clear sense of orientation and a positive, healing environment through natural elements including plants, water and daylight.”

“Wausau did a fantastic job and followed the architect’s design intent,” says specialty contractor Tidewater Glazing’s Ray Jennings. Tidewater, along with CBO Glass, and Wausau worked closely together from the project’s early development through to completion two years later. “We enjoy our relationship with Wausau on this and several other projects. We appreciate their project management and engineering and their ability to help us work well under difficult conditions.”

Jennings elaborates, “This was an addition to an existing, working hospital with a helipad and it’s right in the middle of the city, so there was virtually no access to the building and no room for staging. More than once, we simply needed to clear off the roof so an emergency helicopter could land. It was tough, but it turned well.”

Along with helping Tidewater meet the aesthetic and congested construction site for the building, Wausau aided in achieving the medical center’s high-performance functional criteria. Wausau representative Mark Gedney explains, “The window system was engineered to ensure that moisture levels be kept to a minimum to protect the facility’s diagnostic and imaging equipment. Acoustical performance maintained a quiet working environment even with the helicopter landing on the roof next door.”

(more)

(page 2/ Wausau High-Performance Window System on Baltimore Critical Care Facility)

Wausau's project manager Kurt Beidle notes that company manufactured several window and curtainwall systems to address these varied needs including a portion of the building requiring 1.5-inch, bullet-resistant glass. "The largest units were about 8-feet wide by 7-feet tall and weighed 882 pounds."

"To support the big, heavy lites of glass and contribute to the ground level's aesthetics, we provided 4,282-square-feet of 9250 Series curtainwall with double deep mullions," describes Gedney. "On the second level, you see 4,761-square-feet of 7250 Series curtainwall and along the back of the building runs a clear story of 18,475-square-feet of 4250 Series strip windows."

He continues, "The stairwell is enclosed with 3,676-square-feet of 8750 Series factory-glazed, four-sided, structural curtainwall. But Wausau's most notable contribution to this center can be seen on the front of the building where we provided a custom 24,000-square-foot 6250 Series SuperWall system with horizontal, aluminum accent bands and vertical, aluminum fins all of which was finished by Linetec in a clear anodize."

"It's a beautiful job," concludes Jennings and the building's occupants seem to agree.

"The new space gives us a lot of flexibility, so that our staff can take the best possible care of patients. At the same time, we built in features to give our patients enhanced privacy and comfort," says Brian Browne, M.D., head of Emergency medicine at the University of Maryland Medical Center and professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

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