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THE PULSE

UMKC’s Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Building Taking Shape on Health Sciences Campus



Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Building construction site on Sept. 17, 2025.

CONSTRUCTION ON the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Building (HDIB) has made significant progress since last fall, when the university held an event celebrating the start of construction. Multiple levels of metal and concrete now rise above what once was a surface parking lot at the corner of 25th and Charlotte streets. The 160,000-square-foot building should be ready for occupancy in late 2026, and will usher UMKC into a new era for students, faculty and the greater Kansas City community with spaces geared toward research and discovery.

"This building brings together the right ingredients: state-of-the-art structure, the right proximities and the right programs," said Alexander Norbash (B.A. '85/M.D. '86), dean of the School of Medicine. "The building is going to allow us to leapfrog where we would have otherwise been, where discovery and innovation are concerned."

The university hopes having access to new technologies on such a forward-thinking campus will attract top-tier faculty and students who can all contribute to future innovations.

"A building like this is going to allow us to tap into the creativity of medical students from the moment they enter medical school," said Norbash.



Nelson Sabates (B.A. '83/M.D. '86) with his School of Medicine classmate, Dean Alexander Norbash (B.A. '85/M.D. '86), at the HDIB groundbreaking ceremony in September 2024.

At \$145 million, the HDIB is UMKC's largest capital project to date, and will be home to dental and medical programs, including cutting-edge simulation labs, as well as the Health Equity Institute, biomedical engineering and the Data Science and Analytics Innovation Center. UMKC received state and federal funding for the project, but private donations have also made a significant impact.

One of Norbash's classmates, Nelson Sabates (B.A. '83/M.D. '86), along with his family, donated \$3 million to the project, which represents the largest alumni donation the School of Medicine has received. Sabates has a long history with UMKC as an alumnus and former chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

"I wanted to give back to the school that gave me my start," said Sabates. "I think every alumnus should think about donating to the school. We've got not only this building project, but others coming in the future. Alumni support is key to advancing healthcare education in the Health Sciences District."

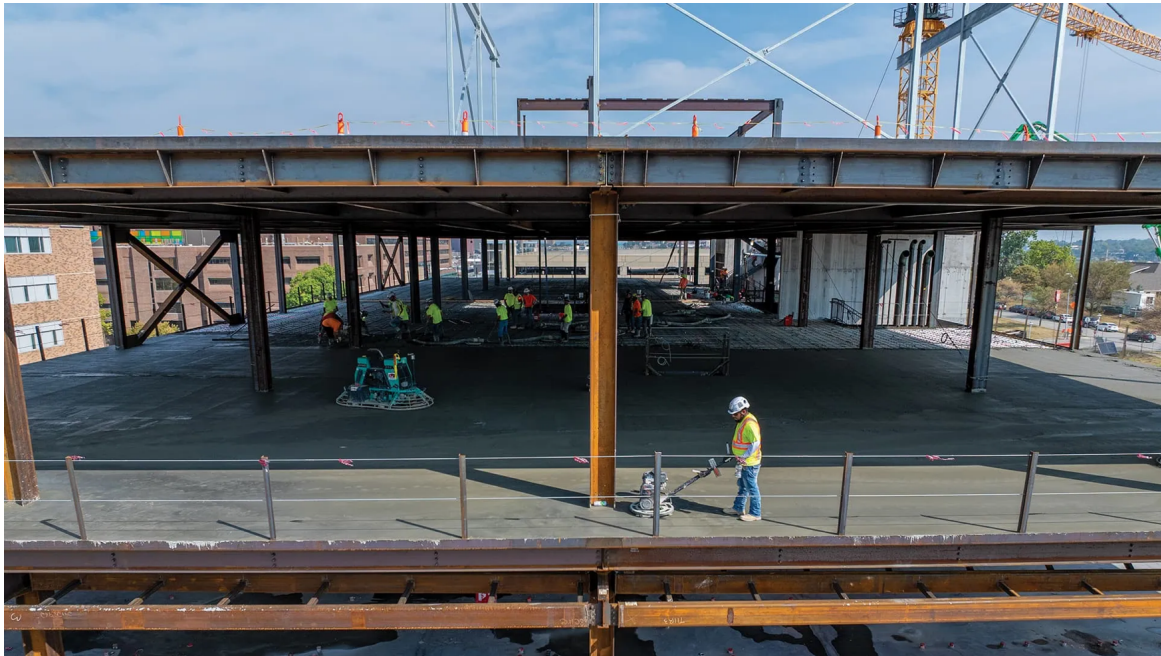
Alumni fundraising efforts are ongoing.

"Our goal, between alumni and friends of the School of Medicine and School of Dentistry, was to raise \$10 million in support of the building," said Matt Astleford, senior managing director of development for the School of Medicine. "We have less than \$5 million to go. This is a meaningful and lasting way for alumni to make their mark on this state-of-the-art academic space."

Norbash envisions a long-term impact that will make donors proud.

"It's going to create jobs and it's going to kick-start the economy of the Health Sciences District," Norbash said. "If you were to come here in another 15 or 20 years, you'll probably see a lot of the fruit of that labor. A lot of opportunities are going to spring up because of this innovation and the creativity that's going to happen in this nucleus."

If you are interested in learning more about HDIB donation opportunities for the School of Medicine, contact Matt Astleford at mastleford@umkcfoundation.org.



Construction workers lay down concrete on the top floor of the Healthcare Delivery and Innovation Building.