NEW PROFESSIONAL/SCIENCE BUILDING TO BE ERECTED AT DILLARD
Groundbreaking ceremony to be held on November 9 at the Gentilly campus

(NEW ORLEANS, November 8, 2007) – Dillard University will break ground for a new, state-of-the-art, 21st-century Science and Professional Schools Building on the historic campus’s east side. The groundbreaking ceremony will be held on November 9, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. near the Samuel DuBois Cook Communications Center.

The 160,000-square-foot building will house academic and research programs in Natural Sciences & Public Health, Nursing and Business. The building will have a common grand entrance/atrium that will become a focal point for community and student social interaction. The new facility will be LEED-(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. [See attached architectural rendering.] The last new building erected on Dillard’s campus was DUICEF (Dillard University International Center for Economic Freedom), which opened in 2004.

“This is the heartbeat of the ‘new’ Dillard, the lifeblood of our pathway into the future,” said Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of Dillard University. “We are fearless and unwavering in our dedication to academic excellence, and this project will further strengthen our mandate to serve our students and prepare them for global leadership. This is a prodigious structure that will endure for generations to come.”

Dillard University, with a 55-acre campus on Gentilly Boulevard in the heart of New Orleans, was inundated with six to ten feet of water in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina due to breaches at the London Avenue and 17th Street canals, resulting in $400 million in damage. Three dormitory buildings were destroyed by fire as the campus sat underwater.

Dillard was the only local university unable to hold classes on its campus for an extended period after the storm. Students and faculty lived and studied at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside Hotel beginning in January 2006, which resulted in a $100 million economic impact for downtown New Orleans. The university’s first post-Katrina commencement was held on the renowned Avenue of the Oaks – a Dillard tradition – on July 1, 2006. A full class schedule resumed on campus on September 25, 2006.
Invited guests for the ceremony include Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.); Sen. David Vitter (R-La.); State Senator Diana Bajoie; Cynthia Hedge Morrell, City Council-District D; Michael Haggen, Deputy Superintendent of School Management, New Orleans Recovery School District; Dr. Kelvin Adams, Chief of Staff, New Orleans Recovery School District; Romy Thompson, Global Green.

Dillard, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), has been a cornerstone of educational excellence and a critical part of the New Orleans community since 1869. Dillard offers a quality, four-year, comprehensive undergraduate program to students that represent 29 states and several foreign countries.

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