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Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 12:06pm EDT

UB adds to downtown property holdings

Business First of Buffalo - by [James Fink](#)

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In another step towards creating its gateway to downtown Buffalo, the [University at Buffalo](#) Foundation has officially purchased a key Goodell Street parcel.

The UB Foundation, through its [FNUB Inc.](#) affiliate, paid \$875,000 for the property at 65 Goodell Street — buying it from Nosnevets LLC, according to documents filed in the Erie County Clerk’s Office.

The land will be one of the centerpieces of UB’s sweeping development plans in the central business district and Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

UB is planning to construct a 63,834-square-foot building that will house its Education Opportunity Center, which is moving from Washington Street. Construction is slated to start this summer, said John DellaContrada, UB senior director of media relations.

The deal is part of UB’s plan to increase its presence in downtown Buffalo as defined by its UB 2020 master development plan. The building, because of its prime location on Goodell Street, just off of the Kensington Expressway, will serve as the university’s front door to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

UB has previously acquired the former M. Wile plant on Goodell Street and will occupy several floors as part of [Kaleida Health](#)’s Global Vascular Institute that’s currently under construction adjacent to Buffalo General Hospital.

Designed by Holt Architects of Ithaca, under the oversight of the State University Construction Fund, the EOC building will be constructed primarily of environmentally friendly, durable fiber cement panels and glass, DellaContrada said. The design will feature large window frames and open stairways that bring natural light into the building and offer faculty, staff and students dynamic views of the city.

The first floor of the EOC will contain a conference center, enrollment-management suite, career-services suite and support spaces, in addition to a Head Start program, which will have an independent entrance and an enclosed outdoor playground.

Classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, a computer lab, library, “information commons” and student and faculty lounges will be located on the top three floors.

The building will be LEED certified, which is part of the UB 2020 mandate.

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