



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW DOWNTOWN CENTER** *MBA classes to be offered by September 2011*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Nov. 4, 2010** – Davenport University, which has served the Grand Rapids community since 1866, is proud to announce it will open a downtown center for its graduate programs at 45 Ottawa Ave. NW.

“Davenport University has a rich heritage of serving the Grand Rapids business community, and it has long been our intent to offer graduate programs downtown,” said Davenport President Dr. Richard J. Pappas. “This new center will bring us closer to the businesses and health organizations we serve, and we are excited about the opportunity to bring our innovative MBA and professional development programs to our partners.”

“Davenport University has been a key contributor to the economic and educational vitality of Grand Rapids for more than a century, so we’re excited for the university’s new and enhanced presence downtown,” said George Heartwell, Mayor of Grand Rapids. “With these new facilities, Davenport will be well-situated to support growth in our city for many years to come.”

The 18,000-square-foot center will be more conveniently located to businesses in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. It will be open for the fall 2011 semester with MBA concentrations in health care management and accounting, with other MBA focuses considered for later rollouts. Davenport’s MBA programs will be offered in a cohort format, with 12-, 16- and 20-month rotations.

The center also will house Davenport’s Institute for Professional Excellence, which has helped employers such as Steelcase and Amway Corporation provide training for emerging leaders within their ranks. The center will allow the institute to offer greater flexibility in the training it supports on- and off-site.

In addition to academic and training programs, the downtown center will provide office and conference space for university staff and faculty.

Davenport University is working with Rockford Companies on the acquisition of the site and site renovations with anticipated occupation of the building starting in May of 2011. The university completed consolidation of all Grand Rapids-based academic programs and services at its W.A. Lettinga Campus in June of 2010.

**About Davenport University**

Davenport University – the only Michigan-based private university specializing in business, information technology and health professions – serves an enrollment of approximately 12,000 students at its W. A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids, 13 other campuses throughout Michigan and online. Davenport focuses on innovative, practical and affordable education and offers graduate and undergraduate programs. More information is available at [www.davenport.edu](http://www.davenport.edu).

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