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**OGS ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF NEW CHILD CARE CENTER AT HARRIMAN CAMPUS**

*Building 3 renovated to house state-of-the-art child care*

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced completion of the renovation of Building 3, the former employee cafeteria, at the Harriman Campus. Capital Milestones Child Care, a 27,000-square foot child care center capable of serving 212 children aged six weeks through five years, and an additional 100 children up to age 13 during summer and school vacations occupies the new space. The complete gut renovation included all new HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems, and fire alarm. New windows, roof, security systems, playgrounds, and age-appropriate fixtures and furnishings were also part of the project.

“Access to reliable, safe child care has been a priority of Governor Cuomo’s,” Commissioner Destito said. “This new center offers parents an exceptional space and team of caregivers that will nurture, inspire, and educate their children.”

“The Governor’s Office of Employee Relations is pleased to support the opening of the new Capital Milestones Child Care Center,” said Michael N. Volforte, Interim Director of GOER. “The joint labor-management Family Benefits Program remains committed to providing convenient, quality care for children of state employees by providing technical assistance, training and grant opportunities for the 30-plus worksite child care centers hosted by state agencies across New York.”

“OCFS was pleased to offer our expertise in partnering with OGS and GOER during the design and construction of this state-of-the-art child care program. The facility offers parents the opportunity to have their children cared for all the way from infancy through school-age and after school. The facility is truly an asset to the community,” said OCFS Acting Commissioner Sheila J. Poole.

Access to child care is an important factor in helping our employees strike the work-life balance we know is so important to their peace of mind and productivity," said UAlbany President Robert J. Jones. "UAlbany is proud to be a partner with the State in this beautiful new facility.

“It is critically important that working families have access to quality affordable child care. This new state of the art facility will provide child care services year round for families throughout our region,” Senator Neil Breslin said. “I applaud Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Destito their commitment to address this important need in our community.”

"Investing in our children is an investment in our future. Many thanks to the Governor and OGS Commissioner RoAnn Destito for prioritizing the extensive renovation of Building 3 for the Capital Milestones Child Care to provide needed high quality child care, after school care, and even summer programs, which are so essential for families. It is also exciting to see the continued revitalization of the Harriman campus," said Assemblymember Fahy.

“I want to commend OGS for its commitment to working parents and providing a safe and state-of-the-art child care center for the community,” said Albany County Executive Daniel P McCoy. “It’s an important component that helps families find child care they need while at work.”
“Expanding the child care facility provides an essential amenity for all working parents at the Harriman Campus and at the University at Albany who have young children,” said Albany Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan. “This child-friendly center also benefits parents in the surrounding Albany neighborhoods who will also have access to this a state-of-the-art child care center.”

"Capital Milestones Child Care has a rewarding opportunity to provide high quality child care services. We are focused on supporting NY state employees and UAlbany affiliates as working parents,” Sharon Webster, Capital Milestones Board Chair said. “Our center allows children to explore, grow, and learn from our state-of-the-art program and passionate, skilled caregivers. They will gain a strong social and emotional foundation to prepare them for school and serve them throughout their life."

The building was converted to encompass consolidation of three existing child care facilities located on the Campus and at SUNY Albany that serve State employees and children from the surrounding community. The child care spans the entire breadth of the single-story building and includes infant rooms, toddler rooms, pre-kindergarten rooms, large school-aged child room, on-site kitchen, breast-feeding room, and a gross motor room. There are child-sized bathrooms in each classroom and all flooring is child friendly.

The 12-month long project, which began in August of 2015 had 30 – 80 workers on site each day. Local companies Bunkoff General Contractors, Eckert Mechanical LLC., and Schenectady Hardware & Electric Company Inc. were the prime contractors on the job. Contractors met or exceeded the 30 % MWBE utilization goals set for the project.

Still under construction are five separate playground areas to support children from 6 months to 13 years old. Equipment provided for all ranges of children includes sand boxes, small and large slides, basketball hoop and open play areas with rubberized surfacing and grass. The playgrounds will be complete in October.

Additional project details:

- All the existing systems were removed and new heating, cooling, plumbing, sprinkler and electrical systems were installed.
- The 200 single-pane uninsulated windows were replaced with efficient double-pane windows which are anticipated to reduce energy use by 17%.
- A number of security system items were integrated into the building, including recordable video cameras, a secure card access system, and programmable door locks.
- Modern technology upgrades to save energy and increase productivity include: high efficiency fluorescent and LED lighting, fiber optic phone and data lines, self-flushing toilets, timed faucets; and day light harvesting controls
- All building mechanical systems are fully programmable to adjust operating parameters and further reduce energy. All of the building mechanical systems can be monitored, scheduled and controlled from a central location in the Campus facilities plant.

The completion of the child care center follows the renovation of Building 5 in 2015. Since 2011, the Governor’s Harriman Campus revitalization initiative, has committed $240 million to modernizing buildings and infrastructure at the Campus.

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