

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Tiffany Nation, Marketing Manager, Mortenson Construction, 720-259-4868, [Tiffany.Nation@Mortenson.com](mailto:Tiffany.Nation@Mortenson.com)

Lisa C. Glass, Public Relations, RNL, 303-575-8583, [lisa.glass@rnldesign.com](mailto:lisa.glass@rnldesign.com)

Tim Carroll, APR, Assistant Director of Media Relations, Metropolitan State College of Denver, 303-556-5136, [carrollt@mscd.edu](mailto:carrollt@mscd.edu)

*Mortenson Construction & RNL to lead tour of Metro State Hotel & Hospitality Learning Center Construction Site*  
A teaching tool for University of Denver Real Estate Students

**March 11, 2011, Denver, CO** – General contractor, Mortenson Construction and project architect, RNL will lead students of the University of Denver Daniels College of Business Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management on a tour of the Metropolitan State College of Denver's Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center (HHLC) construction site on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-11 a.m.

After the site tour, the group will visit the downtown offices of RNL, where project architect, Nathan Huyler, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, and Mark Alexander of Mortenson Development will review how design and development challenges were addressed in tandem to achieve success in a demanding market.

"The whole premise and mission of the Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center is rooted in experiential learning," says Chad Gruhl, assistant professor of Hotel Administration in Metro State's Hospitality Tourism and Events Program. "When the University of Denver approached us to hold a special class about our construction project, we jumped at the chance to be a host and put our learning laboratory into action for all students."

The Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center (HHLC) is a unique combination of a higher-education classroom building, a teaching laboratory, commercial hotel—Springhill Suites by Marriott—and conference center. It will also be the future home to the Hospitality, Tourism and Event Department at Metropolitan State College of Denver. The commercial and academic spaces of HHLC are integrated into a single building to help further the mission of the school by providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and real world experiences. The project is scheduled for an official public ground breaking on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m. and is expected to complete in July of 2012. For more information visit: <http://www.mscd.edu/metrostaterising/hlc/>.

### **About Metropolitan State College of Denver**

With more than 24,000 students, Metro State is Colorado's leader in educating undergraduate Coloradans. The College now offers master's degrees in accounting and teacher education, and will offer a master's in social work starting fall 2011. The College enrolls the highest number of students of color among four-year colleges in the state. It boasts 67,500 alumni, the bulk of whom remain in Colorado after graduation.

### **About the Daniels College of Business**

As the eighth-oldest collegiate school of business in the country, Daniels has built a curriculum that focuses on important issues such as ethical business practice, globalization, entrepreneurship, and values-based leadership. In the *Bloomberg BusinessWeek's* annual ranking of the Best Undergraduate Business Programs by Specialty in May 2010, Daniels was ranked the third-best in the U.S. in ethics; No. 27 in accounting; No. 31 in marketing; No. 40 in sustainability; and No. 50 in financial management. In April 2010, *U.S. News'* part time M.B.A. ranking placed the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business program in the top 70 in the U.S. In November 2009, *BusinessWeek* ranked the Daniels' Professional MBA program for working professionals 53rd in the country, the only Colorado business school in the rankings. In October 2009, the Daniels College of Business Executive MBA program was ranked No. 85 in the world by the *Financial Times* – the sole Colorado school to be ranked – in addition to being named No. 20 in the world for teaching of business ethics by the Aspen Institute. For more information, visit: [daniels.du.edu](http://daniels.du.edu).

Founded in 1954, **Mortenson Construction** ([www.mortenson.com](http://www.mortenson.com)) is a U.S.-based, family-owned construction company. As one of the nation's top builders, Mortenson provides a complete range of services, including planning, program management, preconstruction, general contracting, construction management, design-build, and turn-key development. Mortenson has offices in Denver, Colorado Springs, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Seattle with international operations in Canada and China.

**RNL** is a global, full-service design firm specializing in sustainable, integrated design. Founded in 1956, **RNL** offers a continuum of design services, including architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design and planning. **RNL** has offices in Phoenix, Denver, Los Angeles and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. For more information, please visit [www.rnldesign.com](http://www.rnldesign.com).

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