



## NEWS RELEASE

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**Media Contacts:** Randy Ziffer  
850-567-7590  
randy@randyziffer.com

Jay Smith, Vice President  
Ajax Building Corporation  
850.224.9571  
Jay@ajaxbuilding.com

### **Ajax Building Corporation Breaks Ground On New College of Florida Academic Center**

(SARASOTA, FL) – Feb. 1, 2010 – Ajax Building Corporation ([ajaxbuilding.com](http://ajaxbuilding.com)) has broken ground on the \$8.48 million Academic Center and Plaza for New College of Florida, the state honors college for the liberal arts and sciences. The Center is the most significant educational building to be constructed on the College's Sarasota campus in nearly 20 years.

Scheduled for completion by early 2011, the Center will boldly announce the entrance to New College to more than 55,000 daily passers-by along Sarasota's North Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41).

Designed by internationally acclaimed architects and urban planners Moule & Polyzoides of Pasadena, California, the new 35,000 square-foot, LEED-certified facility will contain classrooms, faculty offices and a courtyard café that will be open to the public upon the building's completion. Funding for the project was provided by the State of Florida.

"When finished, this first-class Center will build upon the pride that students, teachers and the community enjoy at this distinguished and historical college," said Bill Byrne, Ajax president. "We're delighted to participate in this beautiful hallmark project that will take New College to the next step of its future."

A key component of New College's 2006 Campus Master Plan, the new Center and its spacious outdoor plaza, which connects with the Jane Bancroft Cook Library, promises to become a central hub for student activities on the College's Palmer (or Bayfront) Campus. The Center's location also will enable the College to maximize the technological developments taking place at the Library under the direction of its new dean, Dr. Brian Doherty. Those developments have been made possible in part thanks to federal funding gained by U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan to help New College develop Smart Library technology at the Jane Bancroft Cook Library.

"As New College prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010-2011, it seems fitting that we should break ground on a new facility that so proudly proclaims our academic focus and sense of intellectual community," said New College President Mike Michalson. "This beautiful and highly visible structure, located at the gateway between Sarasota and Manatee counties, will serve as a symbol of the wonderful community support New College has enjoyed ever since our founding in 1960."

#### **About Ajax Building Corporation**

For more than 50 years, Ajax has provided construction services throughout the Southeast and is recognized for its expertise in construction management, design-build and program management of educational, healthcare and correctional facilities, as well as other public and commercial buildings. Ajax maintains offices in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Gainesville, Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Myers, Port Charlotte and Atlanta. For more information about Ajax Building Corporation, visit [ajaxbuilding.com](http://ajaxbuilding.com) or contact Ajax Vice President Jay Smith at 850.224.9571.

#### **About New College**

New College of Florida is a national leader in the arts and sciences and is the State of Florida's designated honors college for the liberal arts and sciences. Ranked No. 5 in the nation among all public colleges and universities by *Forbes.com* ("*America's Best Colleges*", 2009 edition), New College attracts highly motivated, academically talented students from 40 states and 25 foreign countries.

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