

JWU launches first PA program in state

Classes expected to begin June 2014

PROVIDENCE – Johnson & Wales University unveiled the design of its new Center for Physician Assistant Studies on Dec. 17, 2012. The building at 157 Clifford Street in Providence's Knowledge District will be home to the state's first physician assistant (PA) program.

The university anticipates a June 2014 start date for the inaugural class of students seeking a master of science in physician assistant studies. The first year of the two-year program will include classroom instruction, with the second year for clinical rotations.

"Rigorous classroom learning, state-of-the-art lab experiences and top-flight clinical rotations will prepare PA students for high paying, in-demand jobs in a growing health care sector that will make a real difference in our communities," said JWU Providence Campus President Mim Runey. "The high



quality clinical opportunities program we have arranged through partnerships with the leading medical and health care institutions in the state will enrich our academic programs with experiential and work-integrated learning."

"Graduates will be agents of change and part of the solution to the increasing healthcare needs of our citizens," said George Bottomley, who was named founding director last August. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Medicine's physician assistant program and also holds a doctor of veterinary medicine degree.

Johnson & Wales purchased the Clifford Street building and two parcels of land in October 2012 for \$2.8 million and estimates the cost for design and construction to be \$10.5 million. The university is planning to renovate the 18,000 square foot building into a state-

Artist rendering of the Center for Physician Assistant Studies at Johnson & Wales University, located at 157 Clifford St. in Providence's Knowledge District. The building was originally a jewelry manufacturing facility.

of-the-art facility that will contain lecture halls with global teleconferencing capabilities, small group conference rooms, a clinical skills lab, and a cadaver-based anatomy lab.

The program is in development and must be accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc. (ARC-PA). JWU is seeking provisional accreditation, with an ARC-PA site visit scheduled for June 2013 and a decision expected in September 2013. Provisional accreditation is granted for a maximum of three years, at which point the program applies for continuing accreditation. ❖



Gov. Lincoln Chafee speaks at the unveiling of the design for the new Center for Physician Assistant Studies at Johnson & Wales University. The center will house the state's first physician assistant program. Seated, from left, are George Bottomley, director of the center; JWU Providence Campus President Mim Runey, and Jeffrey Senese, vice president of Academic Affairs.