Western Michigan University hires firm to design home for new School of Medicine in Kalamazoo

Published: Tuesday, August 02, 2011, 11:34 AM     Updated: Tuesday, August 02, 2011, 12:35 PM

By Mark Sanchez | Business Review West Michigan

KALAMAZOO — Western Michigan University has hired a Connecticut architectural and engineering firm to design a home for its planned medical school.

The S/L/A/M Collaborative will partner with Diekema Hamann Architecture and Engineering in Kalamazoo to design the WMU School of Medicine. WMU says the firm has extensive experience is designing medical and health science facilities.

"Designing facilities that help educate health care professionals is both rewarding and challenging," SLAM President Bob Pulito said. "There is so much excitement and good will in the community right now, our challenge will be to help capture and promote that good will with every decision as we move forward."

SLAM’s project portfolio includes:

- Duke University's new School of Medicine Learning Center that's targeted for completion in 2012,
- The Emory University School of Medicine in 2007 and the 2004 Pediatric Research Center at Emory and a major expansion of the Rollins School of Public Health completed by SLAM last year,
- Georgia's Health Sciences University in 2006,
- The University of Notre Dame's Jordan Hall of Science, completed in 2006, and
- Pfizer's Clinical Research Unit in New Haven, Conn., finished in 2005.

WMU is presently in the process of hiring a construction manager that will work with SLAM on the project. Construction could begin in 2012 with the School of Medicine opening in the fall of 2014.

"The explosion of medical knowledge coupled with advances in instructional technology and a deeper understanding of how people learn has placed medical education facilities at the forefront of a revolution in teaching and learning,"
Pulito said. "This is a transformative opportunity for the Kalamazoo community.

"Creating a new School of Medicine is a bold and visionary undertaking requiring an equally bold and dynamic architectural response. Just as the Kalamazoo community has 'made no small plans' with its goal of developing one of the top medical schools in the country, the S/L/A/M Collaborative also will make 'no small plans.'"