

September 22, 2010

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for **Beckenhauer Construction** who recently completed the addition and renovation of the Bruner Hall of Science on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. I am Dr. Robert F. Rycek and for the bulk of the construction period I served as Interim Dean of the College of Natural & Social Sciences at UNK. One of my duties was to oversee the construction/renovation since, as dean, I was the responsible person for that building. While the building is "owned" by the State of Nebraska and the university, my role was akin to being the "owner" of the building.

During the dedication of the building on October 2, 2009, I indicated that Beckenhauer Construction did a superb job on the project. One year later, my thoughts are not diminished one bit... in fact, they are magnified as I look at the fabulous structure they built and renovated, the wonderful use of space, and the quality of the workmanship throughout. But that is only a small part of the story of this project.

This was truly a monumental task. It involved the demolition of the old Mary Morse Lecture Hall complex that was attached to the Bruner Hall of Science and replacing that with a new addition that houses 5 classrooms, the health science offices, several labs in the basement, and the centerpiece of the building which is the 60-seat planetarium that has become a spherical icon on campus. In addition, all four floors of the Bruner Hall of Science were basically gutted, most floors reconfigured, and completely renovated. The four floors house the departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics and contain numerous labs, most being highly specialized, numerous teaching labs, and office space for faculty and other facilities for students, faculty and staff. The amazing thing about this renovation is that the building remained fully functional throughout the entire construction period. When renovating a building, most construction companies would simply shut down the building and renovate it. But UNK has only one science building and therefore it was essential that the building remain functional, especially for highly specialized labs in the sciences. Beckenhauer was able to accomplish this. This was no small undertaking. It took the coordinated efforts of the faculty and staff of the building, the various subcontractors, and efforts by our own facilities people to do this. Communication was key and Beckenhauer was up to the task. We held meetings with leaders in our facilities department, department chairs (and often some faculty), key members of the Beckenhauer staff, and myself every other week throughout the construction period. Let me just say that in the past we have had less than positive interactions with other construction companies on campus for various projects... with

Beckenhauer, things were very different. They gave us straight answers and approached the project with a very positive can do attitude. They worked with us every step of the way and were highly responsive to the needs of our faculty and students who continued to work in the building. And the final kicker is this... Beckenhauer completed the project a full semester (sixteen weeks) early. That was simply amazing and credit goes to their ability to manage time and schedule subcontractors and coordinate with our faculty and staff.

No project is without its challenges, and believe me there were many challenges along the way. But all of these challenges were met with the same can do, let's find a solution, attitude. I can truly say it was a pleasure working with the Beckenhauer staff. They did not cut corners, they were always highly professional, and the quality of their work shined brightly as did the pride they took in making this a successful project.

I understand that this letter will be used to support Beckenhauer's application for the Associated General Contractors "Build Nebraska" Award. I have been a resident of this State for over 27 years and am keenly aware of the work ethic embodied by the citizens of this State. I can think of no better representative of the values we hold and a company more deserving of this award than Beckenhauer Construction. I fully endorse their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rycek', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Robert F. Rycek, Ph.D.  
Former Interim Dean, College of Natural & Social Sciences  
Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology