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SUMMARY Assurity Center opens in Antelope Valley Redevelopment Area

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Assurity Life Insurance Company celebrated the opening of Assurity Center, the company's new headquarters facility which anchors the Antelope Valley redevelopment project, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday.

"The new Assurity Center is a premier addition to the Lincoln's downtown and a symbol of our commitment to the Lincoln community," said Assurity Chairman, President and CEO Tom Henning, who welcomed guests. Speakers included Governor Dave Heineman and Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler.

"The decision by Tom Henning and Assurity's leadership team to locate their flagship, state-of-the-art facility in Antelope Valley redevelopment area is a significant milestone of the success of this outstanding company," said Governor Heineman. "Lincoln is on the move and the results demonstrate that progress."

"As the first major private development in the Antelope Valley Project area, Assurity is leading the way with this beautiful new building on Union Plaza Park," said Mayor Chris Beutler. "I appreciate the vision of Assurity's leaders in seeing the tremendous potential of this area and creating one of the most striking new additions in our community. Thank you for your commitment to the future of Lincoln, congratulations on the completion of this important project, and best wishes for many more years of success and growth in our community."

Henning credited the foresight and support of the company's board of directors, who felt strongly Assurity was in a unique position to jump-start a major downtown redevelopment and to invest in the long-term viability of Lincoln. He expressed appreciation to the architectural firm of The Clark Enersen Partners and to Sampson Construction for their roles in the project.

"One of our main objectives was to design an architecturally distinctive building that would enhance Lincoln's downtown skyline," Henning said. Assurity Center is a state-of-the-art facility with many environmentally responsible features, advanced technological capabilities and a highly functional, healthful and productive work environment for our associates, he said.

Lowell Berg, a principal with Clark Enersen, said, "An architecturally interesting and appropriate building needs to not only reflect the philosophy and culture of the company which it represents, but should also respect the community in which it is located. All of us at The Clark Enersen Partners are extremely proud to have been a part of this beautiful new building for Assurity and for our community."

The company's objectives for the new facility align with Assurity's corporate values, Henning said.

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“We are committed to being a leader in corporate sustainability,” Henning said. Assurity Center will be the first large office building in Lincoln, and among a small number in Nebraska, to receive Gold certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system by the U.S. Green Building Council, he said.

“Assurity Center is very progressive in terms of both sustainability and technology,” Henning said. “In fact, I would suggest it is one of the most technologically advanced buildings in the country.”

The new facility incorporates leading-edge mechanical and technological features with the flexibility to adapt to changing business conditions, Henning said. High-performance systems are equipped with computer-driven energy management controls. Raised floors throughout the building allow total access to power, data, heating and cooling systems, enhancing the ability to reconfigure according to need or adapt to new technologies.

Numerous sustainable design elements, along with green materials, include green (living) roofs to reduce heating and cooling costs and provide stormwater benefits; an innovative underground cistern to store runoff for grounds irrigation; pervious paving and bioswales to reduce runoff; and drought-tolerant native and naturalized plantings to reduce water use.

The building’s interior features emphasize the well-being of associates, Henning said. The open floor plan with a 25,000-square-foot floor plate creates spaces with natural sunlight, enhanced by inspiring design and vibrant color schemes. Work stations are equipped with a variety of adjustable components, including variable-height work surfaces and ergonomic chairs. Superior air quality is provided through use of environmentally friendly materials and advanced HVAC systems.

The work environment is also designed to foster collaboration, which was another key objective, Henning said. Numerous meeting areas are available for formal and informal gatherings.

Henning said a variety of amenities support Assurity’s wellness initiative, including the cafeteria, which offers healthy cuisine. Close access to trails in Union Plaza Park encourages commuting and exercise by bicycling or walking. Bicycle parking, showers and lockers are provided for associates.

“The new building affords maximum flexibility, allowing us to make future adjustments quickly and easily in our ever-changing business environment,” Henning said. Systems furnishings can easily change shape, size and functionality; there are no permanently fixed office spaces.

Located on a 9.5-acre campus site, Assurity Center consists of a 175,000-square foot office building with five stories plus a lower level, and a separate 600-space parking garage. The new facility consolidates company operations from three previous locations into one building with room for future expansion. Assurity is utilizing all but the fifth floor, which The Physician Network will occupy under a long-term lease.

“The many home office buildings of Assurity’s three predecessor companies have helped to define the character of our city for more than 120 years,” Henning said. “We are proud to continue that tradition by creating a premier facility in one of Lincoln’s most exciting new areas.”

For more information about Assurity Center, visit <http://www.assurity.com/assuritycenter/>.