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DENTON, Texas — The University of North Texas and the city of Denton have begun discussions with well-known hotel developer John Q. Hammons Hotels and Resorts to build a hotel and conference center on the site of a former Radisson Hotel.

The school owns the property at the intersection of Interstate 35 E. and 35W, a gateway to the campus and the city.

The city would be involved only with the convention center, John Q. Hammons would develop and manage the hotel and the center.

The convention center is seen as critical to Denton's success in the meeting business.

"The city is excited to team up with the University of North Texas on a project that could have a significant economic impact on Denton," said Denton Mayor Mark Burroughs. "Developing a convention center has been a goal of the community for some time now. The city has lost numerous opportunities to host large conferences, conventions and training seminars because we lack facilities large enough to accommodate them."

www.unt.edu

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Speaking of John Q. Hammons, an 11,000-seat multipurpose arena that opened last fall at Missouri State University is named in honor of the \$30 million gift Hammons made toward its construction.

The \$67 million JQH Arena is the home to the school's basketball team and to other sports. It is east of the Hammons Student Center, John Q. Hammons' hotel development company is based in Springfield.

The new arena also has 24 private suites, more than 100 loge seats, 55 course seats, and Legacy of Competition and Hall of Fame exhibits.

(417) 836-8666

www.jqharena.missouristate.edu

BOONE, N.C. — For years, it's been the largest ballroom in the High Country. Now, after a significant audio-visual upgrade, the 6,400-square-foot Helen A. Powers Grand Hall at the Broyhill Inn and Appalachian Conference Center is among the region's most technologically advanced. The project integrated all key electronic components.

"It's becoming more and more of a necessity for the groups we attract. They're looking for this type of technology," said general manager Doug Uzelac. "In the past, we could bring it in, but now all we do is touch a screen and it's already here. Plus, it is better quality than we provided before."

The ballroom's primary wall is now an automated projection screen served by a 12,000-lumen, cinema-quality LCD projector. There's also an automated projection screen served by a new 5,500-lumen LCD projector on the rear wall.

"The cool thing is that we can now project a DVD or PowerPoint presentation on both screens simultaneously, so people sitting at tables don't have to turn their heads to watch," Uzelac said.

In addition, light levels, sound, video feeds and music in the ballroom are now controlled by two wall-mounted touch-screen panels and a wireless portable control panel.

Among the other new features is the capacity to create digital audio CD recordings of any presentation in the ballroom.

(800) 951-6048

www.broyhillinn.com

SAVANNAH, Ga. — When Savannah Technical College renovated its auditorium 18 months ago, the space immediately became one of the most sought-after locations in the community for large events.

Having shed its 1980s mauve-cushioned theater seats (donated to an area high school) and abandoned its stilted floor, the auditorium



Courtesy Northern Kentucky University

A new student union at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Ky., has significant meeting space, including a ballroom and six meeting rooms of various sizes.

was redone in a retro color palette of browns with sea-foam green accents.

The 6,400-square-foot Edsburg Auditorium now accommodates 400 people auditorium-style and 300 for dining at rounds.

Wireless capabilities for audio, video and videoconferencing have also been added.

The space has been used for career fairs, graduations, large meetings and the college's two signature fundraising events.

"Because we're a state-owned facility, we don't try to compete with other spaces in the area, but we are finding tremendous demand for our auditorium," said Susan Z. Turner, vice president for administrative services.

"We've put in place a fee structure that allows us to offset our administrative costs and still remain reasonably priced, although weekend events are a little more difficult for us to manage."

The Edsburg Auditorium is on the college's Savannah campus.

(912) 443-5796

www.savannahtech.edu

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, Ky. — A new student union opened in August at Northern Kentucky State University, a replacement for a campus center the school had outgrown.

The student union incorporates significant meeting space for public use, including a 7,300-square-foot divisible ballroom, a 1,920-square-foot meeting room, three meeting rooms for 10 to 40 people and two small meeting rooms for up to 24 people each.

Each meeting room is equipped with a ceiling-mounted projector, and the in-room technology is controlled by a touch panel on the wall. In the ballroom, six ceiling-mounted projectors ensure that everyone has a good view. The facility has in-house audio-visual and catering services.

Among the center's other facilities are a food court, a Starbucks, a game room and computer labs.

(859) 572-1940

www.studentunion.nku.edu