

# PICKARD CHILTON

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Pickard Chilton Announces Groundbreaking for Barack H. Obama Magnet University School in New Haven**

**(New Haven, Conn. – June 18, 2018) – Pickard Chilton**, an award-winning international architectural practice noted for its expertise in delivering high-performance buildings that create value and enhance communities, broke ground on June 14 for the **Barack H. Obama Magnet University School**, the firm’s first project in its native New Haven, Conn.

The three-story, 63,000-square-foot project on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) will be a New Haven Public School (NHPS) for 490 Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. It will also provide opportunities for interning, volunteering, and mentoring for SCSU’s School of Education students preparing to be teachers. The Barack H. Obama Magnet University School will strengthen the collaboration between SCSU and NHPS, by fostering a shared emphasis on innovation and best practices for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines, and special education.

Designed in collaboration with Hartford-based JCJ Architecture, the school’s architectural design creates a positive learning environment by providing all classrooms with exposure to daylight and scenic views. All primary classrooms have dramatic views of West Rock. The heart of the building is the Cafetorium and Gym, which can be combined to create a larger space for whole school gatherings. This space has visual connections to the classroom corridors, and to the exterior play areas. The building is designed around an open courtyard that embraces the adjacent woodlands in order to directly engage students with nature. Two wings around the courtyard contain the Media Center, Art, Music, and Science Discovery Center.

With a record of over 60 million square feet of LEED Gold (or better) buildings, Pickard Chilton incorporated in the Barack H. Obama Magnet University School such sustainable features as photovoltaic rooftop panels and green roofs, and complies with the NHPS High Performance Schools Design Requirements and the State of Connecticut High Performance Building standards.

“We are excited and proud to be a part of this project, the first in our hometown of New Haven,” said Pickard Chilton Principal Jon Pickard. “The Barack H. Obama Magnet University School will be first and foremost an education and innovation facility, and our design was developed with the needs of both the school’s students and SCSU’s teachers-in-training in mind.”

Pickard Chilton has extensive experience working on both public and institutional facilities, having designed projects such as the [Minnesota State Senate Building](#), the [Orville L. Freeman Building](#), and the [Emory University Hospital](#), among others.

### **ABOUT PICKARD CHILTON**

Pickard Chilton is an international architectural practice noted for its expertise in the design of large, complex and often high-profile buildings including corporate headquarters, high-rise commercial office towers, hotels, and academic and health care facilities. The firm’s layered perspective informs all of the its work, presenting clients with a sophisticated, knowledge-based approach that emphasizes design vision, integrity, a focus on client objectives, and exceptional service. Headquartered in New Haven, Conn., the firm’s recent completed projects include: Northwestern Mutual Tower and Commons in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; River Point in Chicago; and ExxonMobil’s Campus in Houston. Current projects include Canal Place for Dominion Energy in Richmond, Va.; and a mixed-use project in Tampa, Fla.; as well commercial developments in Tokyo, Japan, Washington, DC, Calgary, Dallas, Houston, and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Visit [www.pickardchilton.com](http://www.pickardchilton.com) for more information.



Obama School Groundbreaking 1 – Barack H. Obama Magnet University School Design Team, comprised of architects from both Pickard Chilton and JCJ Architecture, along with the students of current Strong School in New Haven.

Obama School Groundbreaking 2 – Mayor Toni Harp (center) joined by (left-to-right) Will Clark, NHPS COO; Joe Bertolino, President of SCSU; Carol Birk, Superintendent; Stephen Hegedus, Dean of Education; and Sue Denicola, Principal.

