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ASCEND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

A groundbreaking ceremony for Ascend Federal Credit Union's new corporate headquarters was held Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 520 Airpark Drive in Tullahoma.

According to Ascend President and CEO Caren Gabriel, the 80,000-square-foot facility will benefit credit union members as well as the local community.

"This new facility will give us the room we need to ensure the best possible service delivery to our members, whether it is in a financial center, on the Internet or on the telephone," she said. "Tullahoma will benefit not only from use of local labor to construct the facility but from the additional property taxes and expanded capacity for local employment."

Director of Financial Management and Comptroller for Arnold Engineering Development Center Col. Joel Speight spoke about Ascend's roots at Arnold Air Force Base.

"Ascend's strategic approach originally focused on serving employees at AEDC," he said. "Their expanded business model now services a broader base of customers. This growth has benefited – and will continue to benefit – Ascend members working at AEDC."

Designed by St. Louis-based NewGround, the 80,000-square-foot facility will be among the largest and most efficient office buildings of its type in the surrounding area. NewGround President and CEO Kevin Blair congratulated Ascend's Board of Directors for raising the possibilities of the credit union, its members and its employees with the construction of a new corporate facility.

"This administrative facility will provide a state-of-the-art environment that reflects your commitment to excellence in member service delivery," he said. "The design integrates your brand promise and ensures your ability to attract and retain the very best employees, which in turn will enhance the member's experience on the front lines."

Ascend Board of Directors Chairman Randal Braker said construction is scheduled to be completed in early 2010.

"At Ascend, we talk about raising possibilities for members," he said. "This new facility will give us the room and resources to do that better than we have ever been able to."

Ascend Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution with 16 locations in Middle Tennessee. Federally insured by the NCUA, membership is limited.

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