Concordia University’s deep commitment to the community has already attracted and mobilized many nonprofit, business and civic partners to 3 to PhD. Concordia University and our partners are leveraging strong community connections, making a significant investment of time and resources to power the success of 3 to PhD.

Of the $43 million in construction costs, Portland Public Schools will fund $27.5 million through its school construction bond, paying for the design and construction of the core K-8 learning spaces. Concordia University is committed to raising $15.5 million to fund the College of Education classrooms and offices, plus the community wellness center, the early childhood development center, and enhanced PreK-8 experiential learning spaces.

Groundbreaking on the new facility is expected to take place in February 2016, with the move into the new building at the start of the 2017-18 school year. Prior to opening, there is much be accomplished to finalize the design, complete the capital campaign, re-imagine new programming, and launch a governance structure that supports our common goals. This time in the life of Concordia University and its neighboring community couldn’t be more promising… or more exciting! This is the time when we invite individuals, companies and foundations to stand alongside us to make these monumental outcomes possible.

What will it take to make this work?

Healthy, Stable Families support their children’s learning.

Pathway to High School

Students are engaged in experiential and project-based learning with a STEAM® emphasis. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM).

Pathway to Postsecondary

Students earn postsecondary degrees and credentials with labor market value.

Students are prepared to pursue their highest dreams and engage successfully in careers and community life.
schools, nonprofits, businesses, and civic leaders, we will foster equity and the skills they need to navigate a changing world.

The Faubion School boundaries make up the largest area in the entire Portland Public Schools District. Some of Faubion’s 520 students ride the bus more than an hour to attend school. This is also one of the district’s most diverse student bodies, economically and ethnically. Over 80% percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, one in four live in low-income housing, and nearly as many experience homelessness.

Factors such as low birth weight, obesity and lack of dental care can contribute to emotional, behavioral and social challenges for Faubion students. Many of these families live in isolated and sparsely populated neighborhoods with few health and human services providers and limited basic amenities like affordable grocery stores and parks.

Physical wellness plays an important role in a child’s ability to learn in the classroom. By including a health and wellness center in the building, we can expand access to affordable physical, dental, and mental health care, plus healthy food. Families will be able to access fresh, organic foods sold at-cost in the onsite Food Club. What a difference it will make for students experiencing homelessness to have access to laundry and shower facilities right in the building? A wellness center that meets multiple needs will provide a stable base to support students and help them focus on learning and growing. Any parent can experience challenges when managing their child’s mental health needs; these challenges grow as families face steep socioeconomic barriers. Trillium Family Services will coordinate a web of services to help children and their families thrive, shifting the mental health paradigm to understand and respond to the ways that trauma impacts the well-being of children and families and providing help in the form of coping tactics.

In response to the many obstacles that confront Faubion’s children and their families daily, we believe 3 to PhD will provide a safety net of support that promotes and drives individual success and community wellbeing.

The Faubion School shares a story that illustrates how tightly knit the fabric of lives have become in this united community:

A PARENT OF A STUDENT AT FAUBION SCHOOL

My son Oliver plays on a soccer team that is mostly Faubion students. Tomorrow there is a soccer carnival at Concordia, so the coaches were reminding team members today about the event. A fourth grade Faubion boy yells out “you mean our school?” His friend says “no, Concordia University.” The boy replies “ya, our Concordia.” Already Faubion students think Concordia is theirs!”

LaShawn Lee Principal, Faubion School

3 TO PHD™ IS A BOLD VISION to create a safer, healthier, more educated community in our Northeast Portland neighborhood surrounding Concordia University and Faubion School. Because collaboration creates the most powerful results, a partnership between Portland Public Schools and Concordia University drives this unique vision. What’s even better, the unique approach we are creating can provide a replicable model for more communities locally, regionally, and nationally.

THE FABRIC OF LIVES HAVE BECOME TIGHTLY KNIT through the way families and Concordia University’s College of Education, alongside a community wellness center, an early childhood education center, state-of-the-art experiential learning spaces and advanced technology.

The 3 to PhD vision will develop and be nurtured in a unique facility which will encompass both Faubion School and Concordia University’s involvement will deepen over time as we identify ways to enlist expertise from every department to enrich professional development and planning at Faubion School.