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OMAR BLAIK LAUNCHES U³ VENTURES

PHILADELPHIA: U³ Ventures, a real estate and community development firm, has been created to focus on development opportunities around urban anchor institutions.

The company will partner with urban universities nation wide to create vibrant and sustainable real estate markets around their edges. By channeling the economic activity of universities, U³ Ventures will bring together the diverse interests of anchor institutions, their communities, and the local real estate developers.

Omar Blaik is the founder, President and CEO of U³ Ventures. Mr. Blaik was formerly the Senior Vice President at the University of Pennsylvania Facilities and Real Estate Division. During his nine-year tenure at Penn, he led the effort to enhance the quality of life on campus and in the neighborhood by creating a vibrant and engaging environment for students, faculty, and staff. Under his management, Penn embarked on more than \$2.0 billion of construction and real estate development projects which transformed both the campus and surrounding community.

“Our deep experience in envisioning and implementing an integrated campus and community development program gives us a unique advantage in the real estate market within the context of a higher education institution” said Mr. Blaik. “We will be the partner of choice for universities seeking to transform their surroundings,” he added.

U³ Ventures will be headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.