



# Perkins School for the Blind

Lower School Dedication – March 2, 2011



## Perkins Lower School

- The Lower School is part of a campus-based program for students from pre-kindergarten through age 22
- 60 day and residential students attend Perkins Lower School
- Most students are visually impaired, with one or more additional disabilities

## The new schoolhouse is...

- More accessible for all students
- Safer with improved fire protection, better security, wider halls and doorways
- More healthful with more daylight, noise control and fully accessible bathrooms
- Laid out more logically to encourage independent travel
- Home to larger, more flexible classroom space
- Designed to support current and future adaptive technology
- Ready for comfortable use year-round with updated heating and air-conditioning
- A tribute to Perkins' history and legacy



## The Project: 2009 - 2011

- Two years of planning based on staff and community input
- New 54,000 square-foot schoolhouse completed
- Renovating 98,000 square feet of space in original Lower School buildings (underway), preserving historic features
- Created 50 full-time jobs lasting the duration of the project
- More than 300 workers employed throughout the project
- New building required 85,636 worker hours/10,670 worker days
- 65% of all wages for the project for union members
- 269 workers underwent Shawmut/Perkins safety and project awareness course
- \$30 million in building and renovation costs financed through MassDevelopment
- More than \$11 million saved through project timing and prudent bid management



## Schoolhouse Green Facts

- New school building on track for LEED® Silver certification
- 150 tons of new school building construction waste was recycled
- 85% of new school building construction waste was recycled
- Light shelves on southern walls transfer light into the central corridor
- Sunlight harvesting controls dim lights when natural light is abundant
- Sun shading, special glass, energy-saving lights are earth-friendly
- Photovoltaic array of 108 panels produces 34kW of electricity
- Water use reduced by 50% from baseline
- Energy Star appliances are in use throughout
- The Energy Dashboard monitors water and energy use and is accessible for people with visual or physical impairments
- 1,000 square-foot green roof reduces heat island effect
- Gymnasium floor is bamboo, a rapidly renewable resource
- Energy-saving HVAC reduces noise, dust, cost, environmental impact

