

Ceremony for medical center signals construction start

The traditional ground-breaking ceremonies by dignataries and a reception featuring the Alaska Native Heritage Acapella Choir marked the construction start of the new Alaska Native Medical Center yesterday afternoon.

The long awaited facility will be at Tudor and Bragaw Streets in Anchorage.

Its estimated costs exceed \$167 million and may provide 200 construction jobs.

Plans include 150 inpatient beds, a 59 bed hostel, a Disease Control

and Prevention laboratory, an expanded outpatient department, a magnetic resonance imaging computer, and large lobby.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) spoke to a group including representatives from the architectural firm, NBBJ; Jeffrey Smith, president of Ellis-Don, Inc., the construction firm; Admiral Bill Pearson, director of the Environmental Health and Engineering Dept. from Rockville, Md; Lorene Jackson, chair of the Alaska Native Health Board and Anchorage Mayor Tom Fink.