

Project Focus: Banner Ironwood Medical Center in Queen Creek

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In a matter of 19 years, Queen Creek has gone from a rural town of 2,667 residents to a bustling suburb of 24,000. Even with such an exponential rise of people, the community has had to rely on hospitals in neighboring cities and a handful of local urgent care facilities for their medical care. However, the

Besides the convenience the new facility offers, the new medical center will also provide a much needed economic boost to the area. Banner Health, a Phoenix based company, is one of the largest nonprofit hospital systems in the country. It had an annual revenue of \$4 billion in 2007 and will draw hundreds of healthcare professionals to the Pinal County.

opening of Banner Ironwood Medical Center (BIMC) at Gantzel and Combs Roads in northern Pinal County will bring much needed medical services to the region.

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Artist rendering courtesy of SmithGroup

The first phase of Banner Ironwood Medical Center in Queen Creek was recently completed at a cost of \$128 million. The facility is slated to open in the Fall of 2010.

vide a much needed economic boost to the area. Banner Health, a Phoenix based company, is one of the largest nonprofit hospital systems in the country. It had an annual revenue of \$4 billion in 2007 and will draw hundreds of healthcare professionals to the Pinal County.

The first phase of construction, which has recently been completed, cost \$128 million and took 13 months to complete. McCarthy Construction, the general contractor, led a group that included Wilson

Electric and W.D. Manor Mechanical. SmithGroup was the project architect.

Jeff Anderson, the project manager for Wilson Electric, said, "McCarthy Construction put together a good team. It was a smooth project."

Wilson Electric manpower peaked at 65 during the seven month project.

BIMC is based on a franchise model and mimics the designs of Banner Gateway Medical Center in Gilbert and Banner Estrella Medical Center in Phoenix. Design work began in 2007, construction commenced in April 2008, and the topping off ceremony took place on Nov. 10, 2008.

The HVAC work on the project was completed by W.D Manor Mechanical with a peak manpower of 128 workers. According to Jeff Randall who, along with Chris DeWitt, was the project manager for W.D. Manor, the

aggressive build schedule was the biggest challenge. "It's unusual to have a building with that type of schedule," Randall said.

Situated on an 80 acre campus, the 220,000 square foot, state-of-the-art medical campus includes an 18 bay emergency room, four surgical suites for inpatient and outpatient surgeries, medical imaging services such as x-ray, MRI, CT, and ultrasound, a five-story Nursing Tower, two-story Diagnostic and Treatment block, and a medical office building that houses physicians and other medical services. Even though the building is ready for patients, Banner has delayed opening due to the poor economy and has moved forward with construction on additional phases. Final build out capacity is 600 beds.

Banner Ironwood Medical center is now slated to open in the Fall of 2010.