



Image credit: Courtesy of Holland Basham Architects

With the dawn of a new age in which the value placed on remembering and recalling information to do a job well may be prized much less than the ability of workers to solve complex problems collaboratively in a more competitive environment, Creighton Prep is moving forward with the development of the ToMorrow Labs project. The effort is a \$1 million endeavor to create space and equipment for Prep students and members of the larger Omaha community to develop their talents for collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and innovation.

Construction begins this summer on a large studio space in the lower level of the school building that will be a center for self-directed learning by creating. Within the space, users will have access to laser cutters, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) routers and mills, 3D printers, microprocessors and other tools. In addition, there will be designated areas for digital, wood and milling work as well as the furniture and storage to support that work.

Whether Prep students or others in Omaha are taking a class in the facility or using it to help complete the design of a technology-based prototype or an artistic work, the hope is that many of the efforts will result in items that can be used to serve others while attracting those involved in their creation to careers where service plays an important role.

“ToMorrow Labs will be a place where, after people find a meaningful problem to tackle, they can work out the designs, test them and iterate, working a challenge from beginning to end,” said Creighton Prep Principal Jim Bopp who helped develop the Innovation Commons at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona. “This represents a real

revolution in teaching and learning,” noted Jim. “It will help Prep students better learn from their mistakes, collaborate rather than compete with peers and expose them to new ways of self-driven learning, all skills they will need to be fluent in to be well prepared for an increasingly dynamic future.”

Initial momentum for the project was helped greatly by the commitment to a lead gift from the family of **Thomas J. Morrow '65 (dec.)**, a technology business leader who was formerly president of Time Warner Communications. Prep is especially grateful to Chris and Sherese Morrow, his brother Mark Morrow and Gerry and Bruce Lauritzen for their vision and assistance during the formative stages that led up to the construction phase.

“With their phenomenal help and that of many others in the Prep community, we can build a program that challenges our students’ minds while serving as an example to other schools in and around the city,” said Director of ToMorrow Labs Candace Thompson. Among many other tasks, she will manage teaching resources there for courses in subjects like architecture, computer-aided design, computer programming, circuitry and robotics. The space will also serve as a hub for current student clubs such as the Architecture Club, CyberPatriots, IT Innovation Cup, Robotics Club and another in social entrepreneurship.

*If you are interested in supporting the ToMorrow Labs project at Creighton Prep, please contact Vice President of Advancement Rick Berger '76 at 402-548-6218 or [rberg@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:rberg@prep.creighton.edu). Thank you!*