

NIU Building Proton Therapy Clinic

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, Northern Illinois University broke ground on a project that will be the first of its kind in Illinois and one the school plans to build in less than two years. Their new project is a \$160 million Proton Therapy Cancer Treatment Center in West Chicago. The center will be housed in the DuPage National Technology Park, and the first patient would be treated by March 1, 2010, if an aggressive construction deadline is met.

Proton Therapy is the most effective way to deliver radiation treatment to sensitive tissues, say its' proponents. Proton beams can be more precise than other methods, enabling doctors to use lower dosages and causing fewer side effects.



Pictured are Cherilyn Murer, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of NIU, with Dennis Hastert, former Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., on her left.