



News Release

For Immediate Release

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METIS HOLDINGS CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF THE REDEVELOPED FORMER ALLSTATE BUILDING

ROANOKE, Va., June 24, 2019 – In a significant advancement for Roanoke County’s economy, Metis Holdings today celebrated the grand opening of the redeveloped former Allstate Building on Electric Road in Roanoke County. The 180,000 square foot facility, now known as Metis Plaza, was purchased in April of 2017 by Metis, a local leader in insurance and risk management services, to accommodate the company’s growth in Roanoke.

During the past two years, renovation work has been ongoing to convert the building into multi-tenant space for several growing businesses. To date, the company has secured leases on 90,842 sq. ft. of the building, with Metis occupying 63,015 square feet. Metis has grown from a staff of 25 to more than 125 employees in the last 10 years, and the new building provides an opportunity for the company to continue their growth in a highly visible, high demand corridor of Roanoke County. Other confirmed tenants include:

- **Lucas & Kite law firm**, occupying 6,897 square feet. Established in 2007, Lucas & Kite is the largest firm in Virginia exclusively dedicated to representing employers and insurers in workers’ compensation matters.
- **Vistar Children’s Eye Care Center**, occupying 9,019 square feet. Vistar introduces the first dedicated children’s clinical eye care center in the Roanoke Valley.
- **Vistar Corporate Offices**, occupying 10,595 square feet
- **Fit Studio**, occupying 7,748 square feet. Fit Studio is a state of the art fitness center providing personal training, strength and conditioning group training, open-gym access, and corporate wellness services to the community. Owned and operated by Richard and Robyn Goodpasture, Fit Studio offers multiple membership options and is open to the public.
- **Lapis Café & Lounge** – Occupying 5,500 square ft., Lapis Café & Lounge is an on-site, modern cafe dining amenity designed by local architect Ashley Tayloe-Switzer. The menu will feature



health and wellness-inspired cuisine, freshly prepared salads, specialty coffee and vitality blends from Chef Scott Switzer. Scott and Ashley own Blue Apron Restaurant & Red Rooster Bar in Salem and are excited to offer exclusive executive catering services to Métis Plaza

The redevelopment project represents a \$10 million investment and employment of 250 people by 2019 and up to 600 people at full occupancy. Median wages will exceed \$60,000/year at this location. Building renovations will be ongoing in 2019/2020. The remaining 50,000 square feet has the potential to accommodate up to five tenants which would bring Metis Plaza to full occupancy.

Chris Carey, Metis President said, “We are fortunate that the Roanoke Region has supported our continued growth in real estate, talent attraction and community resources. As a local success story, we are very pleased to expand and remain in the Roanoke area.”

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil North said the redevelopment project is further confirmation that Roanoke County is a great place to invest and grow a business. “I want to commend Chris Carey for his leadership and commitment to redevelop the former Allstate building in a primary commercial center of Roanoke County. We look forward to working with Chris and all of the businesses in this building as they continue to grow in Roanoke County.”

Built in 1970, the former Allstate building has long been recognized as an iconic and significant economic development asset for Roanoke County. Strategically located on the busy Route 419 corridor, the redevelopment project coincides with the County’s Reimagine Oak Grove planning effort launched this year - an innovative planning and economic development process geared towards creating and redefining high quality centers of activity.

Jill Loope, economic development director for Roanoke County said, “This redevelopment project brings significant new employment back to the Oak Grove area of the County and supports our goal of repurposing underutilized properties in key commercial corridors. The early success of the project confirms the market demand for strategically located high quality office inventory. Growing the economy through local business expansion is ideal for businesses, employees and the community.”

The company is represented in sales and leasing by Frank C. Martin, III, Senior Associate Broker at Hall Associates Inc.

About Metis holdings: Metis Holdings is a leading provider of insurance, risk management, claims administration, cost containment, and other insurance-related services. Metis counts among its biggest clients VACORP, the statewide, Roanoke-based mutual insurance entity for Virginia counties and schools.



About the Reimagine Oak Grove Study: innovative planning and economic development strategies geared towards creating and redefining high quality centers of activity. For more:
<https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/index.aspx?NID=1832>

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