



Richard Stockton College Earns LEED Gold Certification from U.S. Green Building Council

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

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Galloway Township, NJ- Throughout the design and construction stages of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Campus Center, the Office of Plant Management worked closely with KSS Architects to incorporate sustainable features from the inside out. The team was striving to be green and was rewarded with a gold award for its efforts.

The Campus Center has been awarded LEED® Gold certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Stockton's 154,000 square foot Campus Center, which opened in May of 2011, achieved this internationally recognized gold certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. "LEED Gold certification is an honor that we are proud to announce. Our hope is that by earning this prestigious designation, we are influencing our students and the community to follow in our footsteps and to make even greater strides towards a healthier environment," said Stockton President Dr. Herman Saatkamp.

According to an August 2010 report by the U.S. Green Building Council of New Jersey, of the 97 LEED certified buildings in New Jersey, only 12 are LEED Gold certified, and only two of the Gold certified buildings are on college campuses. To see the report, visit <http://www.usgbcnj.org/Resources/Documents/NJCertifiedProjAUGUST2010.pdf>.

The Campus Center is the second project on campus to obtain a LEED certification. In 2007, the F-Wing Overbuild became the first green building on campus to earn LEED Certification for the addition of a second and third floor above the College's original science laboratories, which incorporated lower water usage, natural day lighting, use of recycled and local materials, and green housekeeping. The addition of the second floor added an atrium space that provides seating outside the Library with classrooms and faculty offices alongside, and the third floor is a continuation of classrooms and faculty offices. The Overbuild initiative prepared the College for the larger Campus Center project.

"As the largest college campus in New Jersey, located in the Pinelands National Reserve, we envisioned the Campus Center not only as a student hub, but an opportunity to make a commitment to the environment, our students and our community. We are doing our part to ensure a healthy environment for future generations, and in doing so, there is the added benefit of saving students and taxpayers money by using less energy and water," Dr. Saatkamp said.

LEED Gold certification of the Campus Center was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community.

These features include:

- Optimized Energy Performance – about 30% more efficient than "standard" construction
- Community Connectivity – the building is located close to many services
- Water Use Reduction – 40% less than with use of "standard" fixtures
- Enhanced Commissioning– assures optimal use of complex systems
- Use of recycled and regional construction materials and certified wood
- Use of low emitting adhesives, paints, coatings, carpets and composite wood products

LEED certification is based on credits earned for various aspects of sustainability and energy use. Stockton earned 40 credits, which is beyond the amount required for the Gold level of certification. Having ten services within a half-mile of the Campus Center, specifically a theater, bank, restaurants, bookstore, sports center, library, art gallery, Holocaust resource center and a nature trail, earned a Community Connectivity credit. One of four Innovation credits was earned for comprehensive campus signage and a brochure featuring a self-guided walking tour, which can be accessed at <http://digital.turn-page.com/t/26148>.

Stockton's Energy Specialist Alice Gitchell explained, "The certification was more than three full years in the making, and the decision to strive for LEED was envisioned before the design efforts began. The College first met the seven prerequisites and then went through a design certification followed by a construction certification two years later."

The LEED certification reflects Stockton's continued efforts to uphold its environmental stewardship. Since Stockton opened its doors in 1971, students, faculty and administration have collaborated on numerous energy and sustainability projects. In the 1990s, at a time when energy awareness was still for the most part under the radar, Stockton faculty and members of the administration collaborated to install a 400-borehole geothermal heat pump system, which has heated and cooled the academic buildings for nearly two decades. The system decreases Stockton's electric consumption by 25 percent and the College's natural gas consumption by 70 percent. Also during the 1990s, Stockton installed its first solar array on top of the Arts and Sciences Building.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 40 percent of energy consumption, 13 percent water consumption and 15 percent of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85 percent of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

“The Campus Center’s LEED Gold certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. “The urgency of USGBC’s mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further than ever before, and Stockton serves as a prime example with just how much we can accomplish.”

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. Over 100,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED rating systems, comprising over 8 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

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