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Welcome Center receives LEED Gold rating

Summary: The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating to the Welcome Center at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

(February 16, 2012)-The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating to the Welcome Center at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED certification offers third-party validation of a project's green features and verifies that the building is operating exactly the way in which it was designed.

LEED certification is a point-based system in which building projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific green building criteria. Within each LEED credit category a building project must satisfy particular prerequisites to earn points. Categories include Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality. An additional category, Innovation in Design, addresses sustainable building expertise and design measures not covered under the five environmental categories. The total number of points earned determines the LEED rating.

A LEED Gold rating project needs to receive between 60 and 79 points out of 100. The Welcome Center at Morris earned credits in areas such as water efficient landscaping, water use reduction, optimal energy performance, site selection, building reuse, recycled content, and innovation in design.

In addition to the LEED Gold rating, the Welcome Center has previously been awarded the 2011 Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's Sustainable Design Award and the 2011 Minnesota Construction Association Award.

Originally built in 1915 during the West Central School of Agriculture era, the Welcome Center was known as the Engineering building and more recently as the Community Services building. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its renovation was completed in February 2010.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.