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Taft Information Technology HS receives LEED Platinum

First high school in Ohio to achieve highest level of “Green” certification

May 3, 2012 – Cincinnati, Ohio – The Robert A. Taft Information Technology High School has received LEED (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) Platinum Certification – the highest level of certification for Sustainable “Green” Design given by the United States Green Building Council. This is the first building among the Cincinnati Public Schools to receive this level of certification. In fact, Taft is the first new building in Cincinnati and the first high school in Ohio to receive LEED Platinum.

Taft Information Technology High School is a 104,000-square-foot high school in the West End neighborhood of downtown Cincinnati that serves students in grades 9-12. The new building replaces the former Taft High School that was located on the same site. Construction was completed in March 2011.

The building has numerous sustainable design features contributing to the high level of certification. Atop the building is one of the region’s largest live vegetated green roofs, which was funded in partnership with the Metropolitan Sewer District. Energy-saving design features, including exterior sunshades and a high-efficiency “active chilled beam” HVAC system, substantially reduce the building’s energy consumption. Recycled and regionally-obtained materials, and water-saving appliances and fixtures, were used throughout the project.

The urban context also played an important role. “Several LEED ‘points’ are only available to projects located in dense urban areas,” explains Christopher Dumford, Project Architect with VSWC Architects, the Mason, Ohio-based firm responsible for the design. “Generous access to public transportation, shared parking with the adjacent stadium, and limited hard surface areas are all factors we leveraged to exceed the sustainability goals for the project.”

The construction team of Turner Construction Company, Monarch Construction Company, and all subcontractors contributed to the effort through recycling of construction waste, managing construction indoor air quality, and filtering water run-off. Dynamix Engineering, Ltd. (a consulting engineer for the project) used computer-based energy modeling to optimize the performance of the lighting and mechanical systems.

“We are very proud to be the first district in Ohio to complete a new school building that earned the highest distinction among sustainable construction projects,” said Mary Ronan, superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools. “It was our Board of Education’s vision in 2007 to ensure that the remaining projects of our Facilities Master Plan embraced LEED design standards. We appreciate the efforts of our construction teams who brought that vision to life.”

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Background Information

Cincinnati Public Schools is in the final phase of a 10-year, \$1.1 Billion Facilities Mast Plan for the district, in partnership with the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC). The program encompasses a total of 50 school buildings throughout the city, enhancing educational opportunities for over 30,000 students.

CPS LEED Statistics:

- This building program had the first LEED Silver public school in the state of Ohio at the Pleasant Ridge Montessori School.

- CPS currently has **3 schools LEED Certified:**
 - Pleasant Ridge Montessori – LEED-NC Silver
 - Dater Montessori – LEED for Schools Gold
 - Sands Montessori – LEED for Schools Gold

- CPS has another **19 schools that are LEED Registered** that will be LEED Silver or higher once they complete the process.

Turner Construction Company and D.A.G. Construction Company are currently providing preconstruction and construction management services for the entire program.

VSWC Architects is the Architect of Record for the Robert A. Taft Information Technology High School, as well as four other CPS school projects.

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