

Groundbreaking: Math and Science Building at San Diego Mesa College

By **STEVE ADAMEK** Monday, August 8, 2011

Project: Math and Science Building at San Diego Mesa College.

Project location: 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, 92111.

Project description: A new four-story building being built in the heart of the San Diego Mesa College campus that will house classrooms, laboratory space and offices for the departments of biology, chemistry, mathematics and physical sciences. It will also incorporate faculty/student interaction areas. The facility will be constructed of structural steel, with concrete shear walls and an exterior curtain wall.

Interesting facts: The building's design incorporates numerous sustainable features, with the project team targeting LEED Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. All classrooms, teaching laboratories, and many of the staff offices will optimize the use of sunshine. The windows will utilize high-performance, glazing that will allow natural daylight to enter the building, while rejecting unwanted ultraviolet and infrared light waves. This will help reduce the amount of energy required to air-condition the building. Consistent with sustainable design practices, many of the interior finishes at the new building will be made from recycled material or rapidly renewable sources, such as bamboo. Construction waste also will be recycled.

Developer: San Diego Community College District.

Financing: The project is being funded through the Propositions S and N construction bond program.

Designer: Architects Delawie Wilkes Rodrigues Barker.

General contractor: McCarthy Building Cos. Inc.

Major subcontractors: Hope Engineering, structural engineering. X-nth, mechanical and electrical engineering.

Program manager: Gafcon.

Start date: July 2011.

Completion date: March 2013.

Project cost: \$92 million.

Square footage: 180,000 square feet.

Editor's note: Groundbreaking is a regular feature of the San Diego Business Journal, and includes commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential projects that are either nearing construction, in construction or finishing construction.