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Mesa College building certified LEED Gold

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The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has awarded the LEED Gold Certification to the new three-story, 50,000-square-foot Allied Health Education and Training Facility at 7250 Mesa College Drive on the San Diego Mesa College campus in the Clairemont area of San Diego.

McCarthy Building Companies Inc. was the construction manager on behalf of the San Diego Community College District.

Architects | Delawie Wilkes Rodrigues Barker was the project architect.

Completed in August 2009, the new \$23 million building is the district's sixth facility to be LEED certified and the fourth to achieve LEED Gold status. Construction was funded by the \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program, which is providing for new teaching and learning facilities; major renovations and campus infrastructure projects at Mesa, City and Miramar colleges; and six continuing education campuses.

Gafcon is the program manager for the Propositions S and N construction program for the San Diego Community College District.

David Umstot, vice chancellor of facilities management for the San Diego Community College District, said that while a typical project of this size would normally have required at least 18 months to build, the project team collaborated with the district to complete the building within 16 months. The shorter phasing plan reduced campus disruption and realized significant cost savings for the District and San Diego taxpayers.

Situated at the main campus entry, the building serves as a prominent college landmark.

The design incorporates a continuous ribbon window curtain wall system with integral horizontal window eyebrows helps in shading the glass and thus lowering the amount of solar heat gain inside the building.

Other sustainable design aspects of the building include highly insulated walls and roof areas, linoleum flooring made from natural sources, recycled construction materials, high-efficiency energy systems, an Energy Star roof system, abundant daylighting and low-water use landscape.

The building's power requirements are offset in part by energy generated by solar panels located on the roof of the adjacent parking structure.

The project also entailed realigning the existing roadway, requiring McCarthy to perform the majority of the work without disrupting the access/egress requirements of the campus.

Consultants involved in the project included **Hope Engineering** for structural engineering, **RBF Consulting** and **Latitude 33** for civil engineering, **X-nth** for mechanical and electrical engineering, and **Wimmer Yamada and Caughey** as the landscape architect. **Churchill Engineering** was the code consultant.