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For Immediate Release

Heartland's WDC earns prestigious LEED® Green Building certification

Normal, IL – Heartland Community College's Workforce Development Center (WDC) has received LEED® certification as established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the nation's top program for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair of the U.S. Green Building Council. “The Workforce Development Center at Heartland Community College efficiently uses natural resources to make an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations.” Fedrizzi, a former Fortune 500 executive, has helped shape the USGBC as the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, education and research organization in the nation.

“Studies have shown that an investment in ‘green’ materials and techniques during design and construction results in a 20 percent reduction in a structure's energy use and operating costs during the lifetime of a building,” added Jim Riemer, Executive Director of the Capital Development Board, which manages all non-road, state-funded construction projects. “The Workforce Development Center is the first of what will be many LEED-certified state-funded buildings that demonstrate Governor Pat Quinn's commitment to making Illinois a green state.”

Heartland's WDC was the first state-funded building in Illinois created with a green design to seek LEED certification. The 100,000 square foot building exemplifies green design, construction and operation by using:

- 180 geothermal wells to optimize building energy performance
- Ventilation units which provide a 100 percent outside air supply while efficiently recovering heat from the exhaust air stream
- Strategic sources of natural light to reduce the use of artificial light sources during daylight hours
- Occupancy sensors for lighting throughout the facility
- Highly reflective and efficient light fixtures such as T-5 fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Sensors on bathroom fixtures to reduce water waste and keep facilities more sanitary
- State-of-the-art carbon dioxide monitoring equipment to ensure high quality indoor air
- Recycled-content construction materials
- Paint, carpeting, adhesives, sealants and wood with lower levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Ground-facing outdoor light fixtures to reduce light pollution

- Low-maintenance landscaping for more efficient water use
- Recycling bins for paper, cans and plastic bottles placed throughout the facility
- Green housekeeping practices which utilize less toxic cleaning materials
- Green Star or other certified green furnishings
- Energy Star computers and appliances.

Heartland's WDC, which opened in August 2007, offers traditional credit classes and is home to the College's Corporate and Community Education programs and Workforce Services. The College's technical programs also are located in the center and include Cisco networking technology, computer science and technology, Web design, Novell networking, computer-aided design and drafting, networking, media entertainment systems, home electronic automation, and electronics and maintenance technology, as well as classes in accounting, business, welding and office technology. The WDC also has been designated an Apple Authorized Training Center. In addition, the center houses the College's Green Institute, which serves as a learning center for instruction and training programs dedicated to sustainable design. Within the Green Institute is the award-winning Pregracke Center—an ecological learning facility named for celebrated Heartland alumnus and environmentalist Chad Pregracke.

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. With a community comprising 78 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 100,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to soar to \$60 billion by 2010. The USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, concerned citizens, teachers and students.

According to the USGBC, buildings in the United States are responsible for 39 percent of CO2 emissions, 40 percent of energy consumption, 13 percent of water consumption and 15 percent of GDP per year, making the green building movement 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 USGBC's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. Currently, more than 35,000 projects are participating in the LEED system, comprising over 5.6 billion square feet of construction space in more than 90 countries. By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

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Media disclaimer: Media members are encouraged to contact the Media Associate listed above to arrange interviews with members of Heartland's staff, faculty and administration.