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ANN ARBOR SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVES LEED™ SILVER CERTIFICATION

Bloomfield Hills, Mich., March 27, 2009 — The new Skyline High School, Ann Arbor Public Schools, is officially a LEED™ Silver Certified building in accordance with U.S. Green Building Council standards.

LEED™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. The 381,000 square foot school was registered with the U.S.G.B.C. in October 2004, and received notification of certification in March 2009. The certification reflects a deep commitment from the district, community and design/construction team to create a building that incorporates the principles of environmentally friendly sustainable design.

In designing the school, every effort was made to include sustainable building components whenever possible. Heating and cooling is provided using an underground horizontal loop geothermal system. Building components use recycled content for the structural steel frame, concrete masonry units, exterior steel panels and aluminum window frames. Interior finishes include recycled rubber sheet flooring and cork flooring. The east/west building orientation maximizes natural daylighting while tinted high performance glass helps control light and solar energy that fills the classrooms and other spaces.

Specific features of the new school that helped to achieve the points necessary for LEED™ certification include: the geothermal heating and cooling system and extensive energy recovery units; waterless urinals and metered faucets (reducing water consumption by more than 30%); use of locally produced products (within a 500 mile radius); construction waste recycling (83%); interior building components with low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) content; use of recycled products and use of “green” cleaning products throughout the building.



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Three of most notable efforts that the team undertook include: maintaining a sustainable site, maximizing water and energy efficiency and providing superior indoor air quality.

Skyline High School's site posed many challenges and opportunities. Because the site is an integral part of the densely forested surrounding community, it was important to treat the development as an extension of the existing environs. Developing only 65 acres of the 110-acre property preserved the natural woodlands and wetlands. A frog pond was relocated out of the development area using muck and water from the original pond as well as amphibians that were captured and reintroduced. The terracing site offered the ability to build the first floor below grade much like a massive walk-out basement, and created opportunities for stormwater run-off ponds to be created on-site.

Efficiency was a high priority with a savings of more than 30% for water and 44% for energy, as compared to a baseline model. Both percentages were particularly difficult to achieve, considering the complexity of a large comprehensive high school with a swimming pool. The geothermal system uses over ninety miles of tubing buried below the frost line to heat the building in the winter and cool the building in the summer. The building has no chiller, and the only boiler is used for domestic hot water.

Indoor air quality was also an important factor in the early stages of design. Interior finishes and materials were selected to have as little VOC content as possible. Skyline High School achieved all four LEED credits available for "low emitting materials," including paints, adhesives, sealants, carpet and composite wood (particle board). Special care was taken during construction to keep dust out of the heating and cooling system and any other porous material. Additionally, the building went through a rigorous two week flush out before it was permanently occupied.



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TMP Associates, Inc. was architect for the new school with Ann Arbor-based Mitchell & Mouat Architects as associate architects. Granger Construction Company of Lansing was the Construction Manager for the project.

TMP, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has offices in Bloomfield Hills and Portage, Michigan as well as Columbus, Ohio. The firm serves a variety of clients including K-12 educational, college / university and municipal. Recent projects include the new LEED Silver Certified Whitmore Lake High School and the new Blue Water Area YMCA in Port Huron. Some of the firm's current projects include the Wharton Center for the Arts Addition and Renovation at Michigan State University, the Battle Creek Central High School Remodeling and Addition project and Brown Hall Renovation for Western Michigan University.

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