



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kathleen Brunet Eagan

973-328-5052

kbeagan@ccm.edu

County College of Morris Celebrates the Opening of Its First LEED Building *New Landscape and Horticulture Facility Includes Numerous Sustainability Features*

RANDOLPH, NJ – The County College of Morris (CCM) Board of Trustees on Friday, October 26, hosted a grand opening celebration for the college's new Landscape and Horticultural Technology (LHT) building.

The new 7,200-square foot facility is slated to become CCM's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility. Constructed according to LEED program standards, the building meets the criteria for Gold status, the second-highest rating provided by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is an internationally recognized rating system that awards points for environmentally sustainable building practices.

"The construction of the LHT building according to LEED standards underscores both the Landscape and Horticultural Technology program's and the college's commitment to sustainable design," said Dr. Edward J. Yaw, CCM president.

The building is heated and cooled by geothermal wells, which tap into the Earth's natural temperatures. It also contains well-insulated windows, an abundance of natural light and a conference room featuring a ceiling made of bamboo, a sustainable building material.

Lights in the classrooms, computer lab and drafting rooms are all daylight harvesting systems that adjust based on the amount of natural light coming into the rooms.

In addition, the building features roof-mounted solar panels that help power the building and a vegetated roof to increase energy efficiency. Rainwater from the sloped portions of the roof is collected in two cisterns which will be used to water plants in the greenhouses and gardens.

The building is part of a larger sustainability effort at the college. This past summer, solar panels were installed over five parking lots and on the roof of the Student Community Center. Those panels are expected to generate enough power to meet about 45 percent of the college's yearly energy needs. In addition, the college installed new LED exterior lighting around campus to increase its energy efficiency.

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PHOTOS:

Credit: Life in MoPhoto

Ribbon Cutting

(l-r) County College of Morris Trustees Stanley T. Omland and Thomas Pepe, President Edward J. Yaw, Trustee Michael A. Van Allen, Freeholder John Cesaro, Freeholder Ann Grossi, Trustee J. Richard Rajoppi, Trustee Chair Jeffrey M. Advokat and Trustee Dean C. Strawn cut the ribbon for the college's new Landscape and Horticulture Technology building.

Vegetated Roof

Professor Brian Oleksak, chair of the Landscape and Horticulture Technology department, stands on the vegetated roof of the new Landscape and Horticulture Technology building at County College of Morris. The building is expected to receive LEED Gold certification for its sustainability features.