

Tri-C Westshore Campus building achieves LEED Gold certification

The Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Westshore Campus Health Careers and Sciences building has earned the College its second LEED® Gold certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC).

Tri-C is the first community college in Ohio to earn three LEED certifications. The Eastern Campus Health Careers and Technology building earned Gold, the second-highest level of distinction for sustainable design, in July. The Brunswick University Center earned Silver in June.



The LEED green building rating system is the foremost program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of green buildings. LEED certification is based on measured and documented evidence of sustainable design. Gold certification represents a significant improvement in operational efficiency, sustainability and health compared with a building simply built to code.

The Westshore Campus building's sustainable features include:

- daylight harvesting
- 40 percent reduction in energy use (over current required standards)
- use of cradle-to-cradle materials on exterior envelope
- exterior views in 90 percent of occupied spaces
- 47 percent reduction in water usage (over current required standards)
- 90 percent of annual storm water runoff treated on site
- native landscaping that eliminates the need for irrigation
- 25 percent recycled content
- 92 percent construction waste diversion

Designed by Stantec of Cleveland, the Health Careers and Sciences building opened in January 2011.

The 65,000-square-foot building houses classrooms, simulation labs, science labs, campus administration and a media center around a central collaboration space that overlooks a protected wetland area.

"Sustainability at Tri-C means achieving the College's educational and community missions with a sense of responsibility for preserving the environment, promoting the economy and improving society as a whole," said campus President Dr. J. Michael Thomson. "The Health Careers and Sciences building offers expanded learning opportunities to our community and provides an enhanced academic experience in a healthy, resource-efficient space."

Michael Carter, AIA, LEED AP, principal-in-charge for Stantec, said the building "sets the standard for future development on the Westshore Campus. It's a testament to the vision of campus leaders to provide an engaging, energy- and resource-efficient learning environment for their students."

The Westshore Campus won the city of Westlake's 2011 Award of Distinction for Environmental Awareness in recognition of its sustainable development approach toward campus planning and design. Westshore, the College's fourth and newest campus, is at 31001 Clemens Road in Westlake.