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USGBC Awards LEED for New Construction Gold Certification to West Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – June 4, 2012: With the assistance of Viridian, West Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock has been awarded LEED® Gold by the Green Building Certification Institute under the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) New Construction and Major Renovations Rating System. The West Hall project is the second LEED certified project on the University of Arkansas at Little Rock campus.

UALR's Fast Forward Strategic Plan emphasizes student success as its top priority. One strategy for achieving this goal is to require first time entering freshmen to live on campus. To meet the anticipated increase in campus residents, the new West Hall facility will houses mainly Honors students and opened in August, 2011. The facility is composed of two six-story residence halls connected by a two-story lobby and serves 350 freshmen. The pod style communities will feature furnished double bedrooms, private hall baths, living/dining rooms on each floor as well as study rooms and coin-free washers and dryers. State of the art technology has been considered in every aspect of the complex including sustainable systems, security, wireless internet, and real-time utility tracking. The design team has utilized input from students, campus administrators, and national college housing experts to produce a premier living/learning facility to support the strategic plan of the university.

David Millay, associate vice chancellor for Facilities Management, said adding cost of LEED Gold features into construction of the 104,000 square foot building was miniscule compared to the savings in energy, water, and other utilities that immediately begin accruing. "The energy efficient features and green construction practices add less than 1 percent to the cost of construction," Millay said. "Payback of that additional cost will usually occur within the first year or two of building occupancy."

Little Rock based sustainability consultants at Viridian worked with the University of Arkansas throughout the design and construction phases while coordinating the LEED certification process. "This project is another great testament to the vision of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to become a responsible leader in the educational field and in their community," says April Ambrose, Viridian's Senior Project Manager responsible for guiding the design and construction of the project to meet LEED certification requirements. "Through the LEED

certification of West Hall, they are making a commitment to creating a positive and healthy atmosphere for its employees and students."

LEED for New Construction is a voluntary, national third-party certification system for energy efficient, healthy, green buildings. It addresses design and construction activities for both new buildings and major renovations of existing buildings. Buildings that receive LEED-certified status complete a technically rigorous process that includes a focus on the site, water, energy, materials, and indoor air quality. An energy model and third-party verifications prove that the facility is built to be energy and water efficient, environmentally sound and a healthier place to work.

"Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "The West Hall project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come."

This facility was designed by Witzell+Evans+Rasco Architects with Viridian as the Sustainability Consultant and Commissioning Agent, TME as MEP Engineers and Energy Modeler, and Baldwin and Shell serving as the General Contractor.

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ABOUT VIRIDIAN

Viridian is a Little Rock-based independent sustainability consulting firm that offers business solutions which reflect the optimal balance of social, financial and environmental stewardship. Viridian is a member firm of the U.S. Green Building Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation.

ABOUT LEED FOR CORE AND SHELL

LEED for Core & Shell is a green building rating system for designers, builders, developers and new building owners who want to address sustainable design for new core and shell construction. Core and shell covers base building elements such as structure, envelope and the HVAC system.

ABOUT LEED

The LEED® Green Building Rating System™ is the national benchmark for the design, construction, and operations of high-performance green buildings. Visit the U.S. Green Building Council's web site at www.usgbc.org to learn more about LEED and green building.