

Press Release

Spring Mills Primary School Awarded LEED Gold Certification

For Immediate Release

June 18, 2012 (Martinsburg, WV) --- Charleston architectural firm Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc. announced yesterday that its recently completed Spring Mills Primary School project has been awarded LEED Gold certification as established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). The Kindergarten through second grade facility is located in Martinsburg, WV. LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance buildings. Spring Mills Primary is the first new building in West Virginia to achieve LEED Gold certification.

Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc. achieved this certification by incorporating design features that contributed to substantial reductions in energy, lighting, water, and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified school buildings save taxpayer money for operations, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to a healthier indoor environment for students, teachers, and staff. The building contains many unconventional environmentally friendly features including...

Natural Daylighting - The floor plan of the building was largely derived by the desire to achieve daylighting opportunities in all classrooms, which studies show help improve student performance. Classroom orientation (due north or south), oversized windows with light shelves and sunscreens, high sloped ceilings, and light classroom wall colors, in conjunction with an electronic daylighting sensors all contribute to better natural lighting, and lighting energy savings.

Energy Savings - Through the use of an Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) wall system, enhanced roof insulation, a geo-thermal HVAC system, natural daylighting, and other energy saving features, Spring Mills Primary will use an estimated 33% less energy than a conventional school building of the same size.

Water Savings - Spring Mills Primary uses waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, and reduced-flow kitchen equipment to utilize over 30% less water than a conventional elementary school.

Composting (LEED Innovation Credit) - Spring Mills Primary has a kitchen waste pulping system and decomposing unit that reduces the amount of food waste taken to landfills by 78% compared to other Berkeley County Elementary Schools. The remaining waste can be used as mulch or fertilizer for the school or community projects.

Green Cleaning (LEED Innovation Credit) -Berkeley County Schools has implemented a "green cleaning" program for the school, which will reduce the use of harsh, ecologically unfriendly chemicals.

School as a Teaching Tool - The project includes a wide-ranging program to teach environment stewardship to students, including both curriculum based elements as well as building design elements and signage.

Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc. partner and architect Greg Williamson was thrilled by the news of the LEED Gold certification achievement. "We put a lot of time and attention into making this building as environmentally friendly - and student friendly - as possible." said Williamson, adding "We are extremely pleased to see this project achieve LEED Gold, certainly as a culmination of our effort, but more importantly, for what it says about that community."

The new K-2 school was funded by the School Building Authority of WV and Berkeley County Schools in the spring of 2009. The project was designated by the SBA at that time to become their first official "green" school in WV.

Project Contact Information and Data:

Spring Mills Primary School, Martinsburg WV

Manny P. Arvon II, Superintendent (304-267-3514)

Don Zepp, Construction Project Manager (304-676-4835)

Architect - Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc. (304-345-1060)

717 Bigley Ave., Charleston WV

Gregory A. Williamson AIA, Partner in Charge

Grades Served:	K-2
Maximum Capacity:	575
Building Area:	63,380 SF
Total Project Cost	\$12,671,618
Project Cost / SF:	\$199.93 / SF
Space per Student	110 SF / Student
Length of Construction:	18 months
Occupancy:	August 2011

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a sustainable building evaluation program developed by the United States Green Building Council in Washington D.C. Design submissions are evaluated and scored by the Green Building Certification Institute, also in Washington D.C.

Williamson Shriver Architects, Inc. is an eighteen person architectural firm located in Charleston WV established in 1967. The firm has a portfolio of projects including schools, commercial facilities, and other institutional projects around West Virginia. The firm has been designing school projects in Berkeley County for nearly twenty years.