



◆NEWS RELEASE◆

BSD STUDENTS AIM TO CONSTRUCT NATION'S FIRST STUDENT-BUILT "GREEN" CERTIFIED HOME

Boise, Idaho 11/2/09 – Students enrolled in Boise School District's Residential Construction program have their sights set on building the nation's first student-built LEED Certified home. It's all part of the program's push to develop students' "green building" skills needed in the new green economy. Twelve high school students are busy building what they, and their instructors, predict will be the first student-built home to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. LEED, an internationally recognized green building certification system, promotes the design and construction of high performance green homes.

In today's home construction industry it's widely known "if you are not building green in five years, you won't be building." Fueled by rising energy costs and the recognition that buildings account for 75% of our nation's energy use, and aided by the development of new "green" products, segments of the nation's construction industry are responding to demands for high efficiency, durability, and sustainability.

According to Turner Construction Company's "Green Building Barometer," 75 percent of commercial real estate executives, including developers, rental building owners, brokers, architects, engineers and others, say the current credit crunch in the U.S. will not discourage them from building green. In fact, 83 percent said they would be "extremely" or "very" likely to seek LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for buildings they are planning to build within the next three years. (Facilities Management 1/21/09)

With the support of Boise School District and Boise Schools Education Foundation, District Residential Construction Instructor **Scott Larson**, plans to pursue LEED certification for this year's student-built house as a challenging means to expose students to the philosophy of sustainable building, the methods used to improve a building's environmental footprint, and commonly available green products.

James Cupps, first year Construction Trades Instructor at Boise School District's Dennis Technical Education Center, received a state grant to develop construction training programs in new energy infrastructures such as wind and solar electrical production. Both Larson and Cupps understand the new skills required by a new generation of designers, builders, and consumers and are positioning Boise School District's Construction Education program to meet the challenge of a greener future for the U.S.

"We are committed to seeing that our students have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in today's ever-changing construction industry," said Cupps. "Students today have a tremendous opportunity to recognize the evolution occurring in the industry and position themselves to take advantage of the green construction industry and the accompanying new jobs that are being created."

This year's student-built house is currently under construction in southwest Boise. District students are on site daily. Completion is scheduled for late May, when an open house will be held prior to the home going on the open market. Visits and tours are encouraged. **News media interested in arranging for a visit and tour should contact Instructor Scott Larson.**

Media Contacts:

Scott Larson, Instructor

scott.larson@boiseschools.org

Dennis Technical Education Center

8201 W. Victory Road

Boise, Idaho 83709

863-6251 (cell) 321-0209 (fax)

Dan Hollar – Public Affairs Administrator, Boise School District

8169 W. Victory Road

Boise, Idaho 83709

854-4064, 854-4004 (fax)

dan.hollar@boiseschools.org

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