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SCSU's 104,000 s/f Academic Science & Laboratory Building earns LEED Gold certification

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New Haven, CT The Academic Science & Laboratory Building at Southern Connecticut State University has been certified LEED Gold, placing it among the top one-third most sustainably designed certified buildings in the state.

Designed by Centerbrook Architects & Planners, the nearly 104,000 s/f building exceeded expectations with its sustainable features. Originally targeted for LEED Silver, the Academic Science & Laboratory Building scored 63 points on the LEED scale to earn BD+C (Building Design + Construction) Gold.

Designing a sustainable facility that would increase operational efficiency and reduce the SCSU's long-term energy and water costs was an important goal of the project. This is a challenge for laboratories, which are voracious consumers of energy and water.

What resulted was a building that saves the university 34% on its energy consumption and reduces water use by 20%.

"Science laboratory buildings present significant challenges from a sustainability standpoint, especially one with 76 fume hoods, as this one had," said Centerbrook partner Jefferson Riley, FAIA. "Through a holistic sustainable design approach we were able to provide students, faculty and staff with a healthy and uplifting environment in which to learn and work."

Riley's design, marshaled by Centerbrook's project architect Reno Migani, AIA, and project manager Andrew Safran, AIA, captured six out of 10 points in water efficiency, including both points available in the Innovative Wastewater Technologies subcategory. This was achieved by the rainwater collection system that reduces the amount of potable water used to irrigate the quad by more than 60%.

The project also earned 22 out of a possible 26 tallies in LEED's Sustainable Sites category. By connecting to Jennings Hall and utilizing existing resources, the new building's program and footprint was reduced, while promoting connectivity between the science disciplines.

"We are grateful to Centerbrook Architects & Planners for their innovative, sustainable design work," said SCSU president Joe Bertolino. "This is our second LEED Gold recognition at Southern – the first was awarded for our new home for the School of Business – and adds to our growing reputation

as an environmentally friendly campus.”

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