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Destiny USA achieves LEED® Gold certification, becomes largest LEED® Gold certified super-regional shopping center in the country

Destiny USA obtains official notification that LEED® Gold certification is achieved

Syracuse, NY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012- Destiny USA is pleased to announce that on February 6, 2012, the 1.3 million square foot expansion of Carousel Center achieved official LEED® Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). This accomplishment makes Destiny USA the largest LEED® Gold certified super-regional shopping center in the country.

In its industry-leading role, Destiny USA successfully implemented a model of advanced and innovative sustainability to achieve LEED Gold® certification, including:

- Four million gallons of water will be conserved annually through the rainwater harvesting system, a 78% reduction in the building's baseline water use. This initiative earned the project a LEED® Exemplary Performance Credit.
- Destiny USA's purchase of over 11 million kilowatt hours of Green Power earned the project a LEED® Exemplary Performance Credit.
- The Indoor Air Quality protection plan included the use of only low or zero VOC (volatile organic compounds) products and the protection of the building's air handling systems and material from contaminants during construction, creating enhanced indoor air and environmental quality for Destiny's construction workers, tenants and the public.
- Over 90% of all materials used for construction were diverted from landfills through a disciplined and holistic Construction Resource Management program.
- 7,000 tons of fly ash, a waste byproduct of coal burning, was mixed into the concrete flooring, 23,000 tons of 95% recycled steel and 276,000 gallons of bio-diesel fuel were used. This soy based bio-diesel fuel reduced construction related greenhouse gases by 67%. For this achievement, Destiny USA was awarded a LEED® Innovation Credit.
- A solar reflective "cool" roof with refracting technology creates a beneficial microclimate and conserves energy by keeping the surrounding air at cooler temperatures.
- The flooring within the expansion is made of crushed walnut shells and cork, a rapidly renewing product.
- Forest Stewardship Council certified wood was also used for more than 50% of all permanently installed wood structures on the project.
- 22 tenants are currently registered with the USGBC and working toward individual LEED® certification, demonstrating Destiny's commitment to profitably enhance the sustainability of the

retail and contracting industries. These include Saks Off 5th, BCBG MaxAzria, Michael Kors, Gordon Biersch, and Toby Keith's I love This Bar and Grill, among others.

“Achieving LEED Gold is an extraordinary accomplishment,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair, USGBC, and Syracuse native. “Destiny USA is of a size and significance that it has a unique opportunity to educate the thousands of customers who visit each day about high-performance, energy-efficient, healthy green buildings. It's a tremendous model for other retail and commercial enterprises for whom sustainable construction and development are operational imperatives.”

“This is a life-long dream for me and a mile-marker in my work as a contractor and a developer,” Bob Congel stated. “The City of Syracuse has produced a remarkable number of LEED® certified projects and I am proud Destiny USA is joining a growing list of eco-friendly buildings. It is an added feature to the dynamic tenant mix and entertainment destination that we are pulling together.”

Working to merge economic development with environmental sustainability has been a long time in the making for Robert Congel. Since hosting a Green conference at Savannah Dhu Conference Center in 2002, Mr. Congel has made it a mission to develop Destiny USA in a sustainable manner.

Melissa Perry, Director of Sustainability at Destiny USA, said, “I am thrilled with this tremendous accomplishment and appreciative of the level of support provided by the U.S. Green Building Council throughout the project's development. This is an important milestone in our green journey and it shows people that with collaboration and support, even the most challenging sustainability goals can be achieved.”

Destiny USA and the United States Green Building Council will host a formal certification ceremony this Spring.

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Destiny USA is a new 2.4 million square foot destination that includes Carousel Center, a dominant super regional shopping center already attracting 20 million annual visits. The new construction will mix all types of retail including; luxury outlet tenants, restaurants and entertainment. A stunning three-story glass atrium will provide perfect weather year round. This exciting destination is designed to attract tourists from throughout the U.S. and Canada, destination shoppers and extend the draw of regional visitors well beyond a typical trade area. Oxford Economics has projected an annual visitation of over 29 million after the first phase of development is complete, making it the second most visited shopping center in the country, according to Travel and Leisure magazine. 1,600 full time jobs will also be created. Further development plans incorporate more than 120 acres of adjoining property, including hotels.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a Washington, D.C.- based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 80 local affiliates, more than 18,000 members companies and organizations, and more than 167,000 LEED Professional Credential holders, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads an unlikely diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and non-profit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental

opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

The LEED® green building certification program is the foremost program for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings. Over 100,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED rating systems, comprising over 8 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 114 countries.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

USGBC was co-founded by current President and CEO Rick Fedrizzi, who spent 25 years as a Fortune 500 executive. Under his 15 year leadership, the organization has become the preeminent green building, membership, policy, standards, influential, education and research organization in the nation.

For more information, visit www.usgbc.org .