

MEDIA RELEASE

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Alexander Building Construction completes State College Area School District projects

State College, PA, October 27, 2011 . . . Alexander Building Construction (ABC) recently completed Phase I of the State College Area School District Facilities Master Plan.

The Gray's Woods project added four classrooms to the existing elementary school and was completed in November 2010. Ferguson Township and Mount Nittany elementary schools were completed in August 2011, in time for the new school year.

The Ferguson Township Elementary School project required significant coordination and scheduling because construction on the existing building could not begin until school was out for the summer. It was especially important to the Ferguson Township community to keep some of the original architectural features of the existing building such as the 1930's main entry and classroom façade along West Pine Grove Road. This wing of the school was renovated to become the administrative area.

The Mount Nittany Elementary School is an entirely new building built to consolidate the Boalsburg and Panorama Village elementary schools into one school on the Panorama Village site across from the Mount Nittany Middle School.

"All three projects presented unique challenges. The entire project team worked collaboratively with the Owner and design team in order to meet the schedule and budget requirements," says Chris Magent, General Manager, Alexander Building Construction - State College. "We are extremely proud of our involvement on this important project that will enhance the educational experience of our students in the community."

Both elementary schools have the largest multi-purpose rooms in the school district at 6,000 square feet each. In addition to the rooms being used for school purposes they are also made available to various organizations in the community. Ferguson and Mount Nittany Elementary Schools have unique features to be used as teaching tools such as rain and butterfly gardens, Building Dashboards to monitor energy usage, geothermal HVAC systems, classroom day lighting systems and compass markings painted on the floor designating true north and magnetic north. They also have deliberately exposed structural components as well as mechanical and plumbing pipes. The exposed pipes are color coded to indicate hot water, cold water and rain water.

LEED Gold certification is being sought for both school projects, which exceeds the school board minimum requirement of LEED Silver certification. It is the first time the school district incorporated sustainable design in order to promote environmental stewardship and long-term cost savings.

The LEED features include:

- Energy efficient heating & cooling system using Geo-thermal well fields & heat pumps

- Energy efficient lighting with day light sensing switches
- Certified wood - approximately 75% of the lumber was from a sustainable forest approved by the F.S.C.
- High performance glazing at exterior windows and sunshades installed
- Low VOC construction material
- Construction waste management - Diverted 75% of construction waste from landfills
- Extensive use of day lighting
- Heat island reduction
- No light pollution (dark skies)
- Rainwater management
- Water use reduction
- Systems commissioning
- Refrigerant management
- Recycled materials
- Regional materials
- Occupied indoor air quality
- Off-gassing pollution control
- Enhanced acoustical performance
- Mold prevention
- Building as a teaching tool

ABOUT ALEXANDER: Alexander Building Construction Co. provides construction management and general contracting services for corporate, commercial and institutional clients in central Pennsylvania. With a heritage of over 80 years, the company has a reputation for high-quality, cost-effective construction management services and is recognized as the premier builder of the region's largest, most complex structures. The firm possesses significant experience in the construction of healthcare facilities, colleges/universities, retail buildings, K-12 schools, correctional facilities, corporate office buildings, and mid and high-rise residential towers.

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