Philadelphia University News

Contact:
Debbie Goldberg
Director of Media Relations
215.951.2718
goldbergd@PhilaU.edu

Philadelphia University’s Engineering and Design Institute Partner in $2 Million State Grant to Support Energy-Efficient Building Design and Construction

Philadelphia, October 26, 2006 – Philadelphia University’s Engineering and Design Institute (EDI) is a lead partner in a new $2 million grant to establish the statewide Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership to promote economic development through the design and construction of green buildings and the development of energy-saving building materials, products and technologies.

The partnership also is charged with conducting research and providing education on sustainability as well as green building design, technology, materials, and practices. The Green Building Alliance, based in Pittsburgh, is the other lead grant partner.

Governor Edward G. Rendell, who announced the grant today, said the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership “complements the state’s drive toward energy independence by providing the construction industry with new resources and incentives to incorporate energy-saving and efficient technology into its designs and buildings.”

Philadelphia University Engineering and Design Institute Co-Directors Rob Fleming, associate professor of Architecture, and Chris Pastore, professor of Engineering, will manage the grant for EDI in the eastern part of the state.

“Pennsylvania is poised to be a leader in the green building industry, and this grant provides a mechanism to assist the statewide building industry in realizing that opportunity,” said Chris Pastore, co-director of the Engineering and Design Institute. “The benefits are not just reduced energy costs for building owners, but also increased economic opportunities for the state.”

“Sustainable design principles are reshaping the way the architects and builders choose materials, technologies and services,” said Rob Fleming, EDI co-director. “Sustainability is an important factor in determining the future health of the planet, and developing and promoting these choices in Pennsylvania is good for the state economy.”

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The Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership is charged with four main goals relating to advancing environmentally-friendly technologies and construction: conducting industry-led applied research, providing green design assistance, performing community outreach and promoting commercialization and innovation for research and production of energy efficient products and technologies.

“We are pleased that our efforts to build a strong expertise in sustainability and design are being recognized as a driving force in the Commonwealth,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeffrey Senese. “Professors Fleming and Pastore are engaged in a critical area of research that will benefit our community and society for generations to come.”

The grant partnership also includes Temple, Villanova, Carnegie Mellon and Penn State universities, the University of Pittsburgh, the Delaware Valley Green Building Council and Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,200 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. The University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.