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Another LEED-Certified Building for Hardin Construction Company and Young Harris College

New Recreation Center earns YHC its second LEED certification in two years.

ATLANTA, GA (Jan. 14, 2011) — For the second consecutive year, Hardin Construction Company and Young Harris College have teamed up to give Georgia higher education a new LEED-certified campus building.

Young Harris College's new 57,000-square-foot, multipurpose Recreation Center, which cost \$11.7 million to build, recently earned LEED certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The Recreation Center is the second Young Harris College building in two years to be awarded a LEED certification. In 2010, USGBC awarded Enotah Hall, a 200-bed student residence hall, LEED Silver certification for its environmentally friendly elements.

Hardin Construction Company was the general contractor for both projects, employing four LEED Accredited Professionals in building the Recreation Center.

LEED—or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. USGBC LEED certification levels are Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

Completed in July 2010, the Recreation Center incorporates such sustainability features as low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes throughout; an emphasis on windows, which provide a high level of daylighting; use of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-Certified wood for the gymnasium and multi-purpose room floors; and regionally obtained construction materials.

“Clearly the leadership of Young Harris College is committed to sustainable design and construction as it develops the campus to accommodate the college's growth,” said Hardin Chairman Brantley Barrow. “As a company dedicated to construction practices that protect and preserve the environment, Hardin Construction is honored to have served on the Young Harris project teams.” Hardin Construction has completed more than 15 LEED certified projects, and has built more than five million square feet of facilities for higher education.

The architect of record for the project is Hughes Group Architects of Sterling, Virginia. The Young Harris Recreation Center has a fully equipped weight room and fitness center, a 37-foot-high rock-climbing wall, an elevated indoor jogging track, multipurpose classrooms, a café, and an NCAA-regulation arena that will serve as the home of YHC basketball.

ABOUT HARDIN CONSTRUCTION:

Celebrating 65 years of excellence, Hardin Construction Company, LLC is one of the nation's leading construction services firms, providing unequalled expertise for projects of broad scope and complexity through its culture of integrity, innovation and opportunity. With capabilities in general construction, construction management, design-build and renovation, Hardin is a leader in green building and sustainable practices and is recognized nationally for its safety practices. Privately-held, Hardin's headquarters is in Atlanta, Ga., with offices in Tampa, Fla., Orlando, Fla., Raleigh, N.C., and Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.hardinconstruction.com.

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