Cosumnes River College’s Winn Center Earns LEED Platinum Certification

Cosumnes River College (CRC) announced today that its Winn Center for Construction and Architecture has earned a LEED Platinum certification, the nation’s highest standard for buildings that are designed, built and operated to meet stringent energy-efficiency and sustainability guidelines.

The Winn Center, which opened in fall 2013, was awarded LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, Platinum status by the Green Building Certification Institute. The Winn Center is the second LEED-certified building in the Los Rios Community College District. (The other is the Davis Center of Sacramento City College, which is certified LEED Silver.)

“The Winn Center was designed with the highest learning and industry standards in mind,” said CRC President Deborah Travis. “I’m so proud of the LEED Platinum certification. The Winn Center is a beautiful building that engages students every day by giving them an opportunity to participate in the conversation about energy efficiency.”

The Winn Center is unique to community colleges because it is one of the few instructional buildings with LEED Platinum certification on any of California’s community college campuses.

“This certification affirms the focus of the Los Rios Board of Trustees on sustainable practices throughout the district, and reinforces our strategic plan to teach students about environmental responsibility,” said Los Rios Chancellor Brian King.

The Winn family, whose donation to this facility was the largest private gift in the history of the college, felt students would benefit from learning in a state-of-the-art environment, one equipped with all the new technologies the building industry is using to support energy conservation and sustainability.

“My family is proud to be a part of this incredible achievement,” said Mike Winn, for whom –along with his brothers –the Winn Center is named. “The Winn Center clearly celebrates the art and science of collaboration and the platinum certification truly makes it a place where students not only learn from classroom teaching, but a place where they can experience sustainable building design.”
The Winn Center was designed, and has become, a gathering place for construction and architecture professionals. It demonstrates sustainability with features such as chilled beams, an energy recovery system and solar panels. “When we began to visualize the Winn Center, we always wanted it to be a ‘living model’ to teach our students about sustainable design,” said Architecture Professor John Ellis. “The LEED Platinum designation is unique, iconic and creates a great sense of pride for our campus and the community.”

This unique facility is also home to the Pharmacy Technology and Photography programs, which take advantage of the Winn Center’s “green” features, including skylights and effective use of open space. Cosumnes River College, one of the four Los Rios colleges, is located at 8401 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823.

About Cosumnes River College
Since 1970, Cosumnes River College has provided outstanding academic and vocational training to the region. CRC’s main campus is located in south Sacramento County, with a new college outreach center in Elk Grove. The college enrolls a diverse community of 15,000 students and offers multicultural activities throughout the academic year. CRC is committed to fostering a learning community that celebrates diversity, nurtures personal growth and inspires academic and economic leadership. For more information, go to www.crc.losrios.edu.

About Los Rios
The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation’s most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; five major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. Nearly 77,000 students are enrolled in the four colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.