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Central's Vermeer Science Center, First 'Green Rated' Building in Iowa, to be Rededicated Sept. 12

Pella - After an approximate 40,000-foot expansion and complete renovation, the Central College community will celebrate the rededication of the Vermeer Science Center, 1:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 12, in a public ceremony outside the east entrance of the science center, located at 1008 University St.

Central was recently awarded a Silver Medal ranking from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), through its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, making the science center the first LEED rated facility in the state.

"The standards for earning a LEED rating are stringent, and the process is rigorous and energy intensive," said Central director of construction and energy management Mike Lubberden, who spearheaded the project and was named Iowa's first LEED Accredited Professional. "However, this keeps the LEED Rating System meaningful. When we say we built an environmentally friendly facility by incorporating sustainable concepts, we mean it."

Not only is the Vermeer Science Center environmentally sound, it also boasts up-to-date "smart" classrooms, laboratory equipment and computer labs.

"The basic sciences are a key part of a liberal arts education, so the building that houses them needs to be modern," said Central College President Dr. David Roe.

The science center also highlights features such as a solar powered fountain and an electronic informational kiosk, which acts as a building directory, as well as connecting the user with information regarding the fountain, renewable energy, and facts about the building and its sustainable features.

The \$20-million renovation and expansion was funded largely from a bond issue, as well as through gifts from the Vermeer family, friends of Central and a government technology grant made possible by Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin.

Roe will emcee the rededication ceremony, which is slated to recognize Central luminaries who helped make the project possible. A time capsule containing items including the *Central Bulletin*, current CDs, campus maps and more will also be dedicated during the ceremony.

The science center will be open to the public following the rededication and refreshments will be served on the North patio.

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"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

--Joseph Campbell