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St. Petersburg College and the USGBC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter announce strategic partnership

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (August 03, 2009) – St Petersburg College’s Corporate Training Office today announced a partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide a comprehensive sustainable building operations training course based on the LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance rating system.

The course will be available August 17th.

According to the USGBC, LEED for Existing Buildings: O&M is the tool for the operation and maintenance of commercial and institutional buildings. The certification system identifies and rewards best practices and describes ways for using less energy, water and natural resources; for improving indoor environment; and for uncovering operating inefficiencies.

“Partnering with a Florida chapter of the USGBC puts St. Petersburg College’s Corporate eTraining in the national spotlight,” said James Connolly, SPC’s Corporate Training Director.

The training course provides students the opportunity to increase a building’s operational efficiency while reducing its impact on the environment.

“Sustainable architecture helps illustrate the way in which humans should interact with our surroundings,” said Jason Green, SPC’s Sustainability Coordinator and registered architect. “This training program provides participants with the resources necessary to have an immediate, yet long-term positive impact.”

“St. Petersburg College has made sustainability a top priority in its planning for the future,” said Carl M. Kuttler Jr., SPC’s President. “Our intention is to provide our community with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve a more sustainable future.”

Josh Bomstein, president of the FGCC, said the collaboration will make the training available beyond the local area.

“We are excited by this great partnership with a leading educational institution in the Tampa Bay area,” he said. “The platform provided by St. Petersburg College for online education is second to none, and we’re happy to be able to provide our expertise in green design and construction for content.”

In further support of SPC’s commitment to becoming a leader in the environmental movement, the college recently announced two new degree programs: an Associate of Science in Environmental Science Technology, and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainability Management, both available in the coming fall semester.

To learn more about SPC’s environmental course and program offerings, visit www.spcollege.edu/sustainability or <http://www.spcollege.edu/Ct/>.

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ABOUT ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE:

St. Petersburg College was founded in 1927 as a two-year institution of higher learning. Known then as St. Petersburg Junior College, it provided high-quality, fully-accredited programs with credits that were fully transferable to four-year institutions. In 2001, the Florida Legislature passed legislation allowing the college to offer four-year degrees. In response, the college dropped the word “junior” from its name and became St. Petersburg College. Today, St. Petersburg College offers programs at learning sites in St. Petersburg, Seminole, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs and elsewhere. It also offers courses and degree programs online.