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SDA, Neptune Twp. Educators Celebrate Platinum LEED Certification for Midtown Community Elementary School

NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP – New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) and Neptune Township School District representatives joined state and local officials, staff and students at a ceremony celebrating the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certification of Midtown Community Elementary School.

The high-performance features of the Midtown Community Elementary School qualify it for the LEED Platinum certification. Midtown Community is the second public school in New Jersey to receive the award. According to the U.S. Green Building Council, Only five other buildings throughout New Jersey have received Platinum LEED Certification.

LEED is an internationally-recognized green building certification system developed to provide a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. LEED addresses all building types and emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies in five areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials and resources selection, and indoor environmental quality. By using less energy, LEED certified buildings save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to an overall healthier environment for the community it serves.

Marc Larkins, CEO of SDA, said, “The SDA is extremely proud to have been a part of the collaborative effort along with the Neptune Township School District, school board and community that has resulted in this award-winning school. The SDA strives to build state of the art schools that are energy-efficient and environmentally friendly, giving every child in the state the best possible opportunities to learn. Platinum LEED Certification is a great honor and the SDA is proud to have played a role in Midtown Community Elementary School receiving this prestigious distinction.”

The 149,000 square-foot Midtown Community Elementary School offers a modern and efficient learning environment to 600 students in grades K to 5. In addition to the general use classrooms, small instruction rooms, media center, cafeteria with kitchen, gymnasium and a “green” roof outdoor environmental classroom, the facility also has features such as a Parent Center, Inter-generational Tutoring Center, District-wide Student Health Center and a Neptune Township Police Department Safety Command Center.

The school design incorporates other elements that connect to the environment including digitally controlled geo-thermal heating and cooling, waterless urinals, advanced technology lighting and controls, and photovoltaic electric generation.

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