



## News

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### **Philadelphia University's new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design built to achieve LEED certification**

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3, 2010 – Philadelphia University's new Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design (SEED) – with more than 14,000 square feet of gray-to-green renovated space -- was designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)® certification.

The Center is home to the University's graduate programs in sustainable design and construction management, in the School of Architecture. New architecture graduate programs in interior architecture, launching fall 2011, and real estate development also will be housed in the SEED Center.

Sustainability features in the space include reuse of building materials, day lighting and sunshade maximization, automated lighting controls with daylight harvesting, energy-efficient mechanical systems and low-VOC (volatile organic compound) finishes. In addition, the roof system is structured to support a future photovoltaic array for on-site energy generation.

"We are very excited to house the School of Architecture graduate programs in this state-of-the-art facility," said Vini Nathan, dean of the School of Architecture. "The SEED Center is the perfect home for our master's programs in Sustainable Design and Construction Management, which educate and train professionals to work in the sustainable built environment, as well as a valuable educational resource for the greater Philadelphia community."

The SEED Center features studio space, smart classrooms, fabrication facilities, a CAD lab, seminar space and faculty offices. The building also features an interactive energy monitoring screen that will provide real-time information on the building's energy usage and carbon footprint.

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## **PhilaU SEED Center/ page 2**

In addition to housing academic programs, the SEED Center is an innovative, multi-disciplinary space that serves as a regional resource for architects, engineers, builders and developers by offering specialized training, sustainable building design strategies and green product/material integration.

The building renovation was a fast-track, design-build project utilizing Nason Construction, Inc., and Spiezle Architecture Group, Inc. Philadelphia University alumnus and architect John F. Wright, AIA, was Spiezle's lead project architect on the team.

The SEED Center was formerly the Hughes facility where the University's athletics education programs and activities were held.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and an orientation toward interdisciplinary collaboration. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Engineering, Liberal Arts and Science and Health.