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Welcome Center Earns LEED Certification

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Welcome Center Earns LEED Certification

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center, has been awarded silver certification as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building – the first new construction building in Bloomington to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The building, named in honor of Illinois Wesleyan's 17th president, was designed by CSO Architects, Inc., as part of Illinois Wesleyan's continuing efforts to create a more ecologically friendly or "sustainable" campus. Sustainable features include a geothermal heating and cooling units, the use of special insulated glass for the windows that reflects heat, called low-emissivity, or low-e, glass; and the installation of a traction elevator versus the usual hydraulic elevator.

The U.S. Green Building Council determines an official LEED certified building as one that meets at least 26 of the 69 possible point requirements. Builders can obtain higher levels of LEED certification by gaining more points: a certified rating is 26-32 points, a silver rating is 33-38 points, a gold rating is 39-51 points and a platinum rating is 52 or above points. The University earned 37 points. "We earned all the points for which we applied," said Illinois Wesleyan's Director of Physical Plant Bud Jorgenson.

The Welcome Center, which houses the Admissions Office and the Hart Career Center, was dedicated on October of 2008 during Homecoming festivities on campus.

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