

Wofford College's Goodall center LEEDs the way

Top green-building designation SC's 1st for an academic site

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Wofford College announced Wednesday that its Goodall Environmental Studies Center has earned Platinum LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

It is the first academic building in South Carolina to hold platinum status, the highest achievable level of LEED, and one of only three buildings in the state, including Upstate Forever's Adaptive Reuse building in Greenville and Half-Moon Outfitters distribution center in North Charleston.

"It's really pretty special," said Robert Keasler, senior vice president for finance and operations at Wofford. "I personally think the fact that it's a renovation project is very significant. Our folks did a very good job. It was a really good team effort. We had to get everyone involved in it to create this project and make it platinum-certified. It was an amazing process."

The Goodall center is in the former Glendale Mill office building on the banks of Lawson's Fork Creek. It serves as the hub of Wofford's environmental studies program.

The center is named after Chris Goodall, a 1979 Wofford graduate and current college trustee who made the lead gift toward the \$1.2 million renovation project that was completed just in time for the 2009-10 academic year.

Donnie Love of Spartanburg-based McMillan Pazdan Smith was the lead architect and Chris Swale served as construction administrator for the firm on the project.

Keasler said the Goodall center uses 32 percent less energy annually than standard buildings of the same size.

A rainwater catch system supplies the building with tap and drinking water, and water collected from the creek is used in the facility's low-flow toilets and urinals. The building uses 45 percent less water per year.

The center has a special highly reflective roof that minimizes the heat island effect, he said, and about 78 percent of construction waste was recycled.

The university dedicated the building on April 20 to celebrate Earth Week.

Keasler said it is amazing to think that a site that was once a textile facility, which are notorious historically for polluting the environment, is now being used for environmental studies.

"The LEED Platinum designation serves as an indication of Wofford's leading role in the national conversation around sustainability," said John Lane, director of the Goodall center, in a statement. "It's also a great teaching tool. The LEED process is



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B.G. Stephens, a retired professor at Wofford, gives a tour of the Goodall Environmental Studies Center, which has received the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Platinum certification, the highest achievable level of LEED. The Goodall center, located in Glendale Mill, is the first academic building and only the third non-residential facility in the state to achieve that level.

complex and in the end gratifying. In the Goodall Center, our students see the end results of that process in this efficient and beautiful building.”

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The center has two laboratories — the Auto Bell Car Wash Lab and the B.G. Stephens Lab. The Trammell Terrace provides outdoor space and the Carolyn Fawcett Converse Garden has a pollinator garden, a vineyard and a bog, as well as herb, berry and vegetable beds.

For more information, visit: www.wofford.edu.