SWBR Architects' MCC Gleason Hall project receives LEED Gold certification

March 25, 2013 - Green Buildings

According to SWBR Architects, Monroe Community College's Gleason Hall for Science and Technology has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for its sustainable design and construction. Gleason Hall for Science and Technology is MCC's second project designed by SWBR to achieve LEED certification.

Upon completion of the Wolk Center for Excellence in Nursing addition to Building 9 (LEED Silver), Monroe County hired SWBR to initiate improvements to Gleason Hall, one of the original buildings on MCC's Brighton Campus that had not been significantly renovated since its construction in the mid-1960s.

The work was divided into two phases. Phase I of the renovations consisted of replacement of the mechanical/electrical system infrastructure for the building, preparing it for phase II, and renovation of a 5,000 s/f, electronic technology laboratory classroom with support space. This included the replacement of obsolete interior HVAC units with large, self-contained rooftop units to free up additional interior area, and the installation of new primary distribution ductwork to support the current and future renovations. Phase II consisted of six sub-phases of construction, which included gutting and replacing the remaining 77,000 s/f of interior areas of the building while keeping at least 50% of the building occupied and functional at any one time.

SWBR incorporated sky-lit student collaboration space in the interior of the building, using part of the footprint of an unused two-story lecture hall. A second-floor deck was built in the remaining areas of the old lecture hall to provide new classroom space. Finally, a vegetated wall was installed in an effort to bring nature into the center of the building and help absorb noise from the popular student commons area.

Overall, the project design by SWBR increased the number of general classrooms and specialty lab spaces in the facility by eliminating redundant circulation and through more efficient use of the remaining area. These instructional spaces provide modern technology infrastructure, durable finishes and improved acoustical performance.

Photovoltaic solar panels were installed on the roofs of the main building and loading dock, and generate electrical power equivalent to the needs of one of the new technology labs within. The new building, compared to a baseline building, brings more than 30% energy savings and nearly 52% water-use reduction to the college.

Phase 1 Team:

Architect: SWBR Architects

Construction Manager: The Pike Co.

General Contractor: Javen Construction

Mechanical: Crosby Brownlie
Electrical: Connor Haas
Plumbing & Fire: Thurston Dudek
M/E/P Designer: M/E Engineering
Site/Civil: Parrone Engineering

Phase 2 Team
Architect: SWBR Architects
Construction Manager: The DiMarco Group
General Contractor: Pepe Construction
M/E/P Designer: M/E Engineering
Mechanical/HVAC: Leo J. Roth Corp.
Electrical: Hewitt Young
Plumbing: Unified Mechanical Contractors
Site/Civil: Parrone Engineering