

Discovery Museum teams with Va. Tech as case study in sustainable architecture

By Jonathon Shacal
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WINCHESTER — The new Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum will be green in every way but its color.

The museum has announced a new collaboration with Virginia Tech on the project, as well as new developments with corporate relationships.

The sustainable strategies of the new museum include geothermal heating and cooling, radiant heating and cooling, permeable parkways and pathways, sed roofs, water conservation and photovoltaic electric generation, according to Peggy McKee, executive director of the Discovery Museum.

"This will be the first building in Virginia to get the platinum rating, the highest rating available from the U.S. Green Building Council," she said at a Thursday press conference.

Officials began planning a new facility for the decade-old muse-

um three years ago. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the site in Jim Barnett Park on April 21.

The Discovery Museum is collaborating with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech. The new museum will be a case study for graduate students who are learning about sustainable design and integrated design.

Jim Jones, director of the college's Center for High Performance Learning Environments, said he is excited to participate in the project.

"The center is focused on try-

ing to understand the inner relationships between technologies — both learning and building technologies — the architecture and the space in which learning happens, and learning itself," he said.

"Through that understanding, what we hope is to promote better spaces in which learning takes place, such as museums and schools and these kinds of environments," he continued.

Jones said the center's goal is achieved through a number of different research agendas.

It designs and tests some new building technologies and shares

the lessons learned with the community. It also promotes a concept of buildings that teach, in which a building and its features and systems actually become an active participant in learning.

McKee also announced new collaborations with major corporations.

Several locally based companies are involved. National cabinet manufacturer American Woodmark, Howard Shockey and Sens Inc. construction,

Reeder and Swartz architects, and commercial cleaning and maintenance equipment leader Rubbermaid Commercial Products have agreed to support the project.

In addition, Germany-based REHAU and BASF, South Dakota-based Hydrex Module, Canadian firms Amvic and Insulepan, Carolina Stalite Co., and International Supply Consortium are also contributing to the project.

"All of these international corporations are now part of this

project because we have the relationship with Virginia Tech and because we are building a platinum building here in Virginia," McKee said.

For example, Carolina Stalite will contribute the soil and sed roof, while International Supply Consortium, manufacturers of insulation that is made from recycled newspaper, will donate an insulated concrete form product.

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Effective 1-1-07

County residents residing outside of the 6 incorporated town limits are no longer required to purchase a Shenandoah County decal. The Shenandoah County decal has been replaced with a Vehicle License Fee which will be due and payable on the 2007 1st half Personal Property bill.

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