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Nevada Leaders in Green Building Recognized

Las Vegas, NV – December 14, 2009 – The Nevada Chapter of U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) recognized leaders in green building at its annual Leadership Awards Breakfast. In addition to the awards celebration, the Chapter welcomed new board members and its incoming President, Rick Van Diepen.

Award categories and recipients are:

Advocacy - This award recognizes an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to advancing green building in the public sector.

individual: Joe Johnson, Reno, NV for his outstanding legislative committee work with the Sierra Club and USGBC NV.

organization: Ric Licata, AIA, Reno, NV (co-winner) and J. Windom Kimsey, FAIA, Henderson, NV (co-winner) for the American Institute of Architects, Nevada Chapter's Blueprint for Nevada.

LEED - This award recognizes an individual or organization that has advanced the use of LEEDtm standards through organizational policies, practices or technology.

individual: Nancy Johns, Perini Construction, Las Vegas, NV for her outstanding contribution to green building education on the City Center project.

organization: Scott Wright, Pulte Homes, Las Vegas, NV for the LEED Platinum Villa Trieste subdivision.

Education - This award recognizes an individual or organization making a significant contribution through education or training that advances green building.

individual: David Schmidt, Las Vegas, NV for his outstanding work leading LEED test preparation and LEED education classes.

Research - This award recognizes an individual or organization making a significant contribution through research that advances green building.

individual: Robert Dorgan, UNLV Downtown Design Center, Las Vegas, NV for his work connecting the UNLV School of Architecture with the heart of downtown Las Vegas.

organization: Stephen Wells, Desert Research Institute, Reno, NV for the Climate Change Project.

Community Contribution - This award recognizes an individual or organization making a significant contribution to enlarging and making more diverse and inclusive the community of practitioners and supporters advancing green building.

individual: Thomas A. Perrigo, City of Las Vegas Planning and Development, Las Vegas, NV for the City's Green Building 2.0 program.



organization: Larry Vincent, Bently Biofuels, Minden, NV for Bently's LEED Gold refueling facility in Reno, NV.

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Organizational Excellence – This award honors an individual or organization who has demonstrated a sustained commitment to USGBC through active leadership and participation in the development and advancement of the Council's mission and purpose.

group: City of Henderson Sustainability Initiative, Councilwoman Gerri Schroder, Henderson, NV for the City's dedication to building sustainable, livable communities.

individual: Deepika Padam, Las Vegas, NV for her personal and professional dedication to USGBC and sustainable design.

New USGBC Nevada Chapter Board Members are:

Jennifer Turchin, LEED AP – Jennifer is a project manager with Energy & Environmental Solutions, Inc. in Las Vegas, NV. Jennifer is a licensed architect in Nevada and mentors young professionals to develop leadership skills.

Matthew Weinman, LEED AP – Matthew is the Director of Business Development at TWC Construction in Henderson, NV. Alongside his many contributions to green building, Matthew is working to promote green job creation in Las Vegas.

Roger Thomas, LEED AP – Roger is a senior project manager at Burke & Associates, Inc. in Las Vegas, NV. Roger's career in the US Navy gave him outstanding leadership skills which he brings to bear in building consensus around green building on the jobsite.

Finally, USGBC Nevada has a new Chapter President, Rick Van Diepen, LEED AP. Rick is a senior associate at PGAL Architects in Las Vegas, NV. Rick is a firm believer in a truly collaborative design process, and has facilitated several successful community-based design projects including a LEED Platinum prototype home for Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas. long-time practitioner and cheerleader for sustainable design, Rick has served as a board member for the American Institute of Architects, Las Vegas for five years and was the co-founder of the AIA Las Vegas Committee on the Environment which, among other things, created a four year lecture series on sustainable design, curated the national traveling exhibit, 'Ten Shades of Green', and provided speakers and educational presentations to numerous professional organizations and grade school students.

About USGBC Nevada Chapter:

The U.S. Green Building Council – Nevada Chapter is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and has been an organizational leader in Nevada for green building and sustainability. Our purpose is to make a positive difference in the built, natural, and social environments of the state. With core values based on Collaboration, Environmental Stewardship, Education, Networking and Diversity, the USGBC - Nevada Chapter formed in 2003 to bring focus and vision on sustainable development and green building in Nevada. Our mission is "to promote and advance healthy, sustainable, socially responsible, and economically viable built environments through collaboration, diversity, education, networking, and environmental stewardship." The USGBC – Nevada Chapter believes LEED Certified buildings conserve energy, water, and natural resources, improve indoor air quality, reduce CO2 emissions, minimize waste, increase productivity, and are more healthy places to live and work.

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