Lackawanna Environmental Education Center
awarded LEED Gold certification

COVINGTON TOWNSHIP, Pa. – The Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center, 93 MacKenzie Rd., Covington Township, Pa., was recently awarded a LEED Gold certification by the United States Green Building Council. The facility is home to many of the college’s community-based environmental programs including a score of popular summer camps, nature walks, evening lectures, weekend workshops, and school programs for grades K-12.

The site, which sits on 211 acres, offers preferred parking for fuel-efficient and carpool vehicles and uses a dynamic lighting system that helps maximize the amount of natural light used in order to conserve energy.

The 5,000 square-foot state-of-the-art green building serves as a living model of sustainability and includes an exposed utility room used to demonstrate the technology in the building, a marsh machine that uses recycled water in the facility’s restrooms, and a host of recycled and regional materials used during construction. By creating a building that can also be used as a teaching tool, the team from hemmler + camayd architects helped expand on the center’s existing high-quality environmental education programs focused on building 21st century skills through experiential learning.

The building scored particularly high for its optimized energy use and on-site renewable energy resources including a wind turbine; solar panel array; and the use of a geothermal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system that harnesses the earth’s natural moderate temperatures from a pool of eight 400-foot deep wells. According to the USGBC’s metrics, the Environmental Education Center scored 60 of a possible 114 points to earn the Gold certification, making it one of only two buildings in Lackawanna County to earn the distinction.

Ground was broken for the project in 2010, and the center was formally dedicated in August 2013 in memory of Nancy Coccodrilli Angeli, the late wife of President Emeritus Raymond S. Angeli. The $2 million project was funded in part by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Recreation and Conservation Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Department of Education.

For more information, including a calendar of upcoming events, visit www.lackawanna.edu/environmentaleducation or call (570) 842-1506.

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PHOTO CAPTION: The Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center in Covington Township uses a wide variety of green technology, including solar panels, a wind turbine, and geothermal heating.