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For Immediate Release  
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## **Butler Tech's D. Russel Lee Career Center Renovation Awarded Prestigious LEED® Gold Certification**

Butler Technology and Career Development Schools' D. Russel Lee Career Center, which has recently undergone a major (nearly \$20 million) renovation, has been awarded LEED® Gold Certification.

Established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), LEED® is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

McGill Smith Punshon, Inc. (MSP) is the local firm who designed the renovations, leading a project team which included Heapy Engineering and Steven Schaefer Associates. MSP's work with the school began several years ago, when the school hired MSP to develop a Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan which involved all of the school's buildings and sites, as well as possible expansion projects.

"We worked closely with the staff and management of Butler Tech in all aspects of the planning process. A comprehensive methodology was developed for understanding the school's current and future needs," explains Randal Merrill, AIA, LEED AP, MSP's Vice President of Architecture. "We developed a plan that would allow Butler Tech to make the best use of its resources, and plan for expansion and growth. The completion of the D. Russel Lee renovation, and it's achieving of LEED® Gold Certification, shows that our early planning process was successful."

A variety of sustainable design features contributed to the project's achievement of LEED® Gold Certification. The school's environment provides premium comforts for occupants, such as low emitting materials, thermal and lighting controllability, and an increase in ventilation. Some other important elements include renewable energy usage, building and materials re-use, efficient water fixtures that reduce usage, sustainable stormwater design, use of native plants, alternate transportation consideration, and more.

Butler Technology and Career Development Schools (Butler Tech), one of the first joint vocational school districts in Ohio, has been helping Butler County youth and adults to achieve their dreams since 1975. Butler Tech is now the largest career-technical school in Ohio, currently delivering education to more than 27,000 high school and adult students, and offering a diverse array of programs in various fields.

With a 150-year history in the Cincinnati region, MSP is a diversified firm providing planning, architectural design, civil engineering, surveying, landscape architecture, and facilities planning services to private, educational, public, institutional, and non-profit sectors.