

PRESS RELEASE

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Students to raise exterior walls at “green” house

On Friday, October 3, 2008, Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC) students will raise the exterior walls of the first of seven environmentally friendly homes to be built as part of a newly expanded Construction Trades program. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the high school students will put Styrofoam forms in place and then concrete will be poured to construct the exterior walls of the home located at 2511 Chestnut Trail in Muskegon. Working closely with local vendors and contractors, the students will construct the home throughout the school year using environmentally friendly materials such as high-efficiency heat pumps, low-flow plumbing, carpeting with low emissions, and wood flooring made from quick-growth trees.

Last year a student in the MACTC’s Computer Aided Design class drafted the design for the house. In addition, students in the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) program will be installing the heat pump system; Electrical/Electronic Technologies students will be assisting with the wiring; Commercial Art students will be handling interior design; and upon completion, the Horticulture and Natural Resources students will be responsible for the landscaping. “We are including students from throughout the MACTC in this project,” commented Construction Trades – LEED Instructor Brian Peets.

Once the home is completed, the MACTC hopes to pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the house. LEED-certified homes are rated on performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The new Construction Trades – LEED program is offered primarily to second-year students at the CTC. Students enrolled in the first year of Construction Trades will continue to build homes for Habitat for Humanity. Funds for construction of the home, and for all programs at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, are provided through a vocational education millage passed by Muskegon County voters in 2002. The home will be sold, and the funds used for future construction, once it is completed.

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