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(St. Petersburg, Fla.) January 21, 2010 – The new Science and Technology building at USF St. Petersburg will broaden science teaching and research at the institution, and it will do so as the first building in the USF System to earn Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certification. Faculty members and administrators from USF St. Petersburg and the USF College of Marine Science collaborated to create this multi-functional building.

University and community leaders gathered Monday, Jan. 25 for the building dedication. Click here to view a St. Petersburg Times article about the building.

Because of its planning, construction materials and design, the building earned enough credits for Gold LEED certification. The LEED green building certification program, managed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is a national rating system for buildings designed, constructed and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

Support from the Progress Energy Foundation funded the Progress Energy Earth Science Laboratory. Matched by the state Courtelis Capital Facilities Match Program, the gift equipped the laboratory and provided lab casework and equipment for research tailored to the study of physics, geology and other geosciences.

The expanded classroom space supports a cross-section of university programs while the teaching and research labs enhance the undergraduate and graduate Environmental Science and Policy programs and the Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Sciences tracks. Many incoming first-year students express interest in the institution’s pre-medical and pre-health sciences tracks – undergraduate course sequences that give students the flexibility to pursue a broad-based liberal
arts education while integrating the advanced-level science coursework required by graduate and professional programs in the health sciences.

Building Facts:

- 35,000 square feet
- Two stories
- Eight classrooms and one seminar room on the first floor
- Four instructional labs on the second floor: the Progress Energy Earth Science Lab, a General Chemistry Lab and two General Biology Labs
- Five USF College of Marine Science research labs on the second floor
- Four USFSP College of Arts and Sciences research labs on the second floor
- The $12 million dollar facility was funded by PECO, the state program that funds education construction through taxes on utility services
- Study area on the second floor
- 76 classes are in the building for the Spring 2010 semester
- The largest classroom accommodates 60 students, the smallest accommodates 20

-USF St. Petersburg-