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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Crossroads College Preparatory School Earns Highest LEED Designation

Crossroads College Prep becomes the first school in the Midwest to earn platinum-level LEED certification

St. Louis (January 26, 2010) – Crossroads College Preparatory School received platinum LEED certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) this week, making it one of only six schools in the nation to earn such a distinction. The designation follows the August 2009 opening of Crossroads College Prep’s campus renovation, which included the addition of a new science and library building as well as eco-friendly updates throughout the existing school.

This accomplishment represents a strong collaboration among Crossroads College Prep, developer McCormack Baron Salazar, architect TR,i, engineer William Tao and Associates, contractor G.T. Lawlor and green consultant Vertegy. Funding was provided by US Bank and Enterprise Bank and Trust and also came from the school’s \$5.5 million capital campaign, an allocation of \$15 million in combined federal and state New Markets Tax Credits, and a \$1 million gift from the Bellwether Foundation, among other generous donations.

“Our new building reflects two of Crossroads College Prep’s core principles: imagination and responsibility,” said Billy Handmaker, Head of School. “The imagination of our students, partners and community made this possible, and our platinum LEED certification is testament to our teaching students about environmental responsibility.”

Crossroads College Prep is the only K-12 school between the coasts to receive LEED platinum status. The building addition and renovations meet the highest USGBC standards for efficient use of water and electricity, sustainable construction methods and indoor environmental quality.

TR,i Vice President Curtis Cassel noted his firm’s pride in being involved with the project and said that the success of the design and the construction is due to a region-wide—and

school-wide—collaboration. “Through a unique approach, Crossroads College Prep assigned staff and students to work alongside TR,i as members of the design team,” Cassel explained. “Their feedback and participation were highly encouraged. This enriched the process, and the results are impressive.”

“This certification is in keeping with Crossroads College Prep’s commitment to its students and neighbors,” added Tara Fridhandler, the Vertegy project specialist who oversaw the school’s LEED certification. “This environmentally responsible campus renovation is great for the region and will be an inspiration to schools nationwide.”

Far more than just a physical transformation, the “greening” of Crossroads College Prep paves the way for current and future students to learn about sustainable design and development. The capital campaign invested not only in the renovation, but also in the school’s endowment to fund scholarships. Crossroads College Preparatory School has the highest scholarship rate of any area independent private school, with more than 43 percent of the student body receiving tuition assistance.

“We are delighted to have undertaken a project that addresses all parts of our mission,” said Handmaker. “It is Crossroads College Prep’s highest goal to provide St. Louis-area students with a challenging, enriching education in a diverse community. Our students learn to value both individual expression and mutual respect, and we all share the pride that comes with this platinum certification.”

McCormack Baron Salazar Vice President Julie DeGraaf Velazquez echoed Handmaker’s enthusiasm. “McCormack Baron Salazar is thrilled to have been involved in all aspects of this expansion—from leveraging Crossroads College Prep’s finances with MBS’s New Markets Tax Credits to guiding the design and construction team through the development process,” she said. “MBS shares Crossroads College Prep’s vision of creating great educational options in the City of St. Louis, and this LEED Platinum building nicely complements the school’s academic tradition with a truly unique teaching and learning environment.”

Crossroads College Preparatory School is the only independent, co-educational, secondary day school located in the City of St. Louis. Crossroads College Prep offers an academically challenging curriculum to a diverse and inclusive community of students in grades seven through twelve.

Crossroads College Prep encourages its students to engage their imaginations in every endeavor, ranging from the sciences to the fine arts, and strives to develop respectful citizens, who apply scholarship, imagination, and critical thinking to civic and social responsibility in their communities and beyond.