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News Briefs

Rosendin Electric Helps Train Next Generation of Project Managers

San Jose-based Rosendin Electric was back again this year with an extended program to support construction management students participating in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Western Region Student Competition held in Reno, Nevada. Rosendin Electric has committed to support the student teams by offering assistance to any school participating in the competition.



Every year, students from construction management schools across the country compete in the regional ASC Student Competitions to win trophies and monetary prizes. Each team of six students must complete a complex problem in various construction categories, including one in the electrical industry. Since the ASC added the electrical question to the Western Regional competition in 2008, Rosendin Electric has offered comprehensive training to students to bring practical experience and expertise to help them solve the problem.

Rosendin Electric is committed to expand and continually offer its support program to any college participating in the electrical problem. The field included 1,300 students from 64 schools throughout Regions 6 and 7, which covers the Rocky Mountains and western United States. This year, Rosendin worked with student teams from seven schools, including Arizona State University, Auburn University, Boise State University, California Polytechnic State University, California State University at Chico, Purdue University, and Sacramento State University.

The problem posed for 2012 was the construction of a multi-level condominium in a high-density location in San Francisco. Rosendin Electric has an office in San Francisco and the company's experts are familiar with the unique aspects of the city's zoning and construction, so they were able to assist the ASC competitors using their special knowledge. More

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St. Peter's Place Earns High Sustainability Marks for Multi-Family Project

St. Peter's Place, a 20-unit housing complex for low-income, developmentally disabled adults, recently earned some of the highest sustainability marks ever achieved by a multi-family housing project. Designed by Herman Coliver Locus Architecture and built by Nibbi Brothers General Contractors, the \$6.3-million project originally targeted LEED for Homes Gold certification and a Built It Green "GreenPoint" rating. However, the project (completed last year) not only is on track to earn LEED for Homes Platinum, it also achieved the highest GreenPoint rating ever earned for a multi-family housing project.

GreenPoint is a rating system created by Build It Green, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and advancing sustainable housing. A GreenPoint-rated building is awarded points across five categories: energy efficiency, resource conservation, indoor air quality (IOQ), water conservation, and community (including access to public transportation).

Located in San Francisco, St. Peter's Place earned 202 out of 275 points as its final score. The next highest-rated multi-family housing project earned 166 points, while the average score is 86.

"It's almost impossible to reach the 275 mark," says Ryan Potvin of Environmental Building Strategies, the firm hired to provide third-party certification for the project. "In fact, it's very difficult to get above 200 points."

While many of a project's green features are design driven, the builder can contribute significantly to the end-product's sustainability, says Potvin, particularly in the categories of resource conservation and indoor air quality. In the case of St. Peter's Place, for example, Nibbi's judicial framing estimates helped the project attain an exceptionally high resource conservation score (6 points needed; 20 points achieved).

"The project had extremely low framing rates," says Potvin. "Nibbi



"Many of the project's products are sustainable, renewable, toxin- and allergy-free..."

properly estimated and sized the studs, resulting in a framing waste of less than 1% and less material that needed to be recycled." The project's construction waste diversion waste was 80%, exceeding San Francisco diversion goals by 5%.

Nibbi also contributed to the project's high Indoor air quality points by ensuring that the project was specified correctly, by properly sealing off all ducts during construction, and by taking extra precaution to thoroughly flush out the building prior to occupancy.

Designed to be 56.9% more efficient than Title 24 Energy Code requirements, the project's sustainability goals will help ensure two things: that maintenance and operation costs will be as low as possible; and that tenants will experience enhanced health and long-term stability.

"Our residents already are dealing with significant challenges," says Faith Kirkpatrick, project manager for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, the community based housing organization that developed the project.

"We think that high-quality housing like St. Peter's Place will provide them with a healthy, comfortable, durable place to live that will contribute to their well-being for years to come."

While the project's sustainable features naturally will reduce costs, Kirkpatrick adds that the incentive to make the project as green as possible originates more from "good policy and high standards, and the desire to provide high-quality construction for long-term owners."

"Many of the project's products are sustainable, renewable, toxin- and allergy-free, and often more durable than non-sustainable materials," he says. As an example, the project contains cork and bamboo flooring throughout.

In addition to receiving an exceptionally high GreenPoint rating, St. Peter's Place also earned 90 points under the LEED for Homes system. With 80 points needed to achieve a Platinum certification, the project anticipates receiving LEED for Homes Platinum certification soon.

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Rosendin Electric

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than 20 Rosendin Electric employees from engineering, estimating, safety, business development, operations, and human resources volunteered their time to help students prepare for the competition. A number of students received on-site training at Rosendin Electric's San Jose headquarters and Rosendin experts traveled to school locations to offer on-campus training as well.

"This annual competition continues to raise the bar for both students and contractors," says Richard Wilder, Rosendin's human resources manager. "We love supporting the ASC because it gives us an opportunity to train students using our best practices, and perhaps meet budding project managers who could be working for Rosendin Electric in the near future. In fact, we hired a winner from last year's student competition."

This year's ASC Region 6 and 7 winners in the electrical category were Auburn University with first place, Purdue University taking second place, and California Polytechnic at San Luis Obispo taking third place.

Rosendin Electric is a 100% employee-owned electrical engineering, power and communications provider and is one of the largest privately held electrical contractors in the United States. With over 2,500 employees, Rosendin Electric has offices and experience nationwide and has built upon a 90-year reputation for quality design and installations. For additional information, visit www.rosendin.com.