

# FAU holds 'ground greening' for new engineering building

STRUCTURE WILL MEET HIGHEST ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

By Dale M. King  
CITY EDITOR

What could become the first state-funded, higher education, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum level certified building in the state is about to rise on the Boca Raton campus of Florida Atlantic University.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science held a ceremonial "ground greening" recently to begin construction of the building that will meet the highest standards of environmental friendliness.

Officials said the building represents the first phase of a planned complex of engineering buildings on the north side of the campus.

Being "environmentally conscious" was the theme for the day's event. Karl K. Stevens, dean of the College of

Engineering and Computer Science, welcomed community leaders and representatives from government, education, the state legislature and private industry to the on-site ceremony. Hard hats, green shovels and bags of dirt were provided for dignitaries, but no digging took place. The "greening" ceremony involved pouring dirt around a tree that will be part of the building's finished landscape.

Participating were FAU President Frank T. Brogan; Stevens; FAU Board of Trustees members Armand Grossman and Tom Workman; State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-District 87 and House Majority Leader; Rick Derrer, president of James A. Cummings, Inc.; Peter LoBello, president of Solar Transportation Solutions, LLC and member of the FAU Foundation; Fred Yentz, president and CEO of ILS Technology and FAU College of Engineering and Computer Science executive advisory council chair; William Hanser, principal of Schwab, Twitty and Hanser and City Councilwoman Susan Haynie.



(Special to the News)

At "ground greening" ceremony are, from left, Tom Workman, Armand Grossman, Rick Derrer, Karl K. Stevens, William Hanser, Peter LoBello, Brenda Coto, Fred Yentz, City Councilwoman Susan Haynie FAU President Frank T. Brogan and State Rep. Adam Hasner, R-District 87 and House Majority Leader.

Also in attendance was FAU philanthropist Marleen For-

kas. "Because our college is at the forefront of energy conservation and environmental research, it is important our new home showcase to the community what we are teaching and learning," said Stevens. "I think of this build-

ing as a living laboratory of ideas. After much planning, we are excited to see it become a reality."

The Engineering I building project is registered with the US Green Building Council with the university's commitment to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Cer-

tification, the highest level of LEED Certification possible.

The LEED designation ensures the building is energy efficient, uses innovative technologies and offers users a clean, healthy interior environment.

An appropriation of \$43 million from the state's Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) program is funding the project. In addition, a \$50,000 planning grant for sustainable design was received from The Kresge Foundation Green Building Initiative.

The 90,000-square-foot building will provide an environmentally friendly new home for engineering students, faculty and staff. The dynamic space will include classrooms, teaching labs, meeting rooms, study and workstations, reading lounges, food service venues and recreational/entertainment areas.

Schwab, Twitty and Hanser Architectural Group was selected for its experience in designing other LEED-certified buildings. Construction will be handled by James A. Cummings, Inc., a Perini Corporation. The team will recycle construction waste, use renewable building products and purchase materials from within a 500-mile radius of the Boca Raton campus.



(Special to the News)

From left are Karl K. Stevens, dean of FAU's College of Engineering and Computer Science; FAU President Frank T. Brogan and State Representative Adam Hasner, R-District 87 and House Majority Leader.

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