

Lewis & Clark **NEWS** Community College

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LEWIS AND CLARK RECEIVES \$135,000 GRANT FROM ILLINOIS CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GODFREY – Lewis and Clark Community College has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$135,000 from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for its energy efficient design of the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC).

The Center, which will be constructed near the Melvin Price Lock and Dam on Route 143, has been designed as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) project, which is a designation granted only by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The new building designed by AAIC Architects of Collinsville will be both environmentally friendly as well as educational as visitors will be able to see how rainwater is absorbed and released by a green roof planted with water-thrifty plants. The field station is slated to be one of Illinois's first educational LEED-Gold buildings, a designation for the most highly environmentally sustainable construction.

The NGRREC will serve as a location for research on river ecology, watershed and river management strategies, and educational programs for students and the public about these issues. The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC) is the product of a unique partnership between Lewis and Clark; the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences; the University of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; and the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Lewis and Clark President and NGRREC Chairman Dale Chapman said the grant will help the Center create a landmark in Alton. “This building will be significant for many reasons: it will serve as an international river research institution, an educational institution for students and community members, and it will be an energy efficient ‘green’ building,” Chapman said. “Because of the building’s future location, we have felt from the very first day of planning that the design should both compliment the natural area and be energy efficient by design. The Center will reside near the confluence of three great rivers – a natural wildlife area that many work hard to conserve. This building will allow us to be good neighbors to the natural environment around us, as well as lead the way in energy efficient building design.”

Chapman said the funding from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation provides the support to go through the commissioning process of reaching the LEED-Gold certification. “We are partnering with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to design, commission and construct the first LEED-Gold certified educational facility in Illinois.”

“In demonstrating the efficacy of leading edge energy efficiency in its new home, the highly visible, publicly accessible National Great Rivers Research and Education Center will join the ranks of Illinois’ important buildings as another architectural pacesetter” Phil Novak, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation’s chairman of the board of trustees said. “The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation applauds NGRREC partners for adding leadership in ‘building green’ to its remarkable record as a great research and education institute.”

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation invests in clean energy development and land preservation efforts, working with communities and citizens to improve environmental quality in Illinois. The Foundation supports programs and projects that will improve energy

efficiency, develop renewable energy resources and preserve and enhance natural areas and wildlife habitats throughout the state.

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