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BUTLER SEMINARS OFFERED IN LEED DESIGN

Butler Manufacturing™ has initiated a series of formal training seminars on the advantages of applying pre-engineered metal building systems to the design and construction certification requirements of the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (**LEED**) program developed by the U.S.Green Building Council (**USGBC**).

The classes are the latest in a comprehensive training program that Butler has maintained over the last 50 years for the company's Butler Builders. Instructors are from within Butler and guest experts in the fields of products, safety and erection methods, technologies, business management and construction industry trends. Representatives from more than 250 Butler Builderships normally attend the 30 or more sessions per year on specific topics. The classes normally accommodate up to 25 participants to encourage interactive exchanges with instructors. Surveys from those who attend help to continually refine the content and quality of the classes, noted Kevin Hutchings, Butler training manager.

“The new seminar on LEED plays to the accelerating acceptance of this environmental certification program and the overall trend toward ‘green building’,” Kevin said. “Butler has always been at the forefront of promoting energy-efficient and non-polluting products. Our construction systems enjoy distinct advantages for achieving LEED certification credits, particularly in design/build project delivery.”

The attendees at the most recent session in Chicago included even some individuals who already had the enviable “LEED AP” credential, an acronym for a USGBC ‘accredited professional’ in the construction industry.

“This course offered the chance to learn the direct relevance of LEED criteria to metal building systems construction,” said Brian Karlen, LEED AP, with Urban Construction Company, a Butler Builder® in Wausau, Wisconsin. “The trend toward green buildings is a natural extension of customer expectations for energy-efficient buildings. Nearly 90 percent of our work is done on a design/build basis by licensed professionals on our staff. I believe the ability to market our LEED expertise will further enhance our competitiveness as a single source for a total project.”

Chris Tolley, LEED AP, works as a project developer with Coleman-Adams Construction, based in Forest, Virginia. He also attended the Chicago session and echoes the belief that LEED and metal building systems construction are particularly compatible. A 20-year veteran in the construction industry, Tolley foresees LEED criteria becoming a prerequisite certification for more knowledgeable private-sector customers and basic design criteria for all government building projects.

“The trend to design and build more environmentally friendly facilities could even amend model building codes at some point,” he said.

“We are fully committed to the LEED process,” Tolley said. “Our goal is to have two project development managers, a staff design professional and our vice president in charge of all construction to have their LEED AP credential in the near future. I leaned in favor of LEED early on and am hoping to sign our first project submitted to LEED certification very soon.’

“In addition, the Butler course dispelled the misconception among some circles that LEED certification adds excessive cost,” he commented. “We can offer a direct advantage in applying Butler systems to LEED projects, such as our solar-white metal roof coating whose SRI 83 rating qualifies for a LEED credit, as does the recycled steel used in manufacturing metal building products.”

The training sessions devoted to LEED are expected to continue for the foreseeable future as interest continues from within the Builder network, Hutchings said.

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