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PRESS RELEASE

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DEBRA MAY HIMES, ASID, IIDA ACHIEVES “The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™” ACCREDITATION

Chandler, Ariz. (December 11, 2008)...Staying on top of her profession includes “going and knowing green” for local professional interior designer, Debra May Himes, ASID, IIDA of Debra May Himes Interior Design & Associates. By passing the stringent LEEDS accreditation certification exam on December 10, 2008 at _____, Ms. Himes joins the ranks of only 34% who score high enough to earn the notable title.

“This is an important step for me to take in order to remain at the top of my game by being well educated and informed on issues facing our environment as it relates to green design,” claims Himes. “My passion for interior design takes me much deeper than color boards and focal points; therefore, knowing every aspect of the built environment is what makes me a better designer for my clients.”

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

LEED Professional Accreditation distinguishes building and design professionals with the knowledge and skills to successfully steward the LEED certification process. LEED Accredited Professionals (LEED APs) have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and the LEED Rating System. More than 43,000 people have earned the credential since the Professional Accreditation program was launched in 2001.

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LEEDS CERTIFICATION EXAM
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In 2008, administration of the Professional Accreditation program transitioned to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). The Green Building Certification Institute, established with the support of the U.S. Green Building Council, handles exam development and delivery to allow for objective, balanced management of the credentialing program.

An interior design project award-winner many times over, Debra May Himes, ASID, IIDA has devoted her career to the field of interior design in the Phoenix area since 1975. A graduate of the design program at NAU (Northern Arizona University), her studio focuses on both residential and commercial projects; as well as product design for her national furniture line, Jonathan David. Ms. Himes is involved in both the local and national chapter of the American Society of Interior Designs (ASID) and served as its local chapter president in 1998-1999. She currently serves on the Advisory Council for the College of Arts and Letters for NAU.

For further information, please contact Naomi Anderson, Anderson & Company, 602-820-2336; naomiaz@msn.com; or Debra May Himes, ASID, IIDA at 480-497-2699; www.dmhdesign.com.

LEED Information Sheet

What is LEED?

LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Who uses LEED?

Architects, real estate professionals, facility managers, engineers, interior designers, landscape architects, construction managers, lenders and government officials all use LEED to help transform the built environment to sustainability. State and local governments across the country are adopting LEED for public-owned and public-funded buildings; there are LEED initiatives in federal agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Energy, and State; and LEED projects are in progress in 41 different countries, including Canada, Brazil, Mexico and India.

How is LEED Developed?

LEED Rating Systems are developed through an open, consensus-based process led by [LEED committees](#). Each volunteer committee is composed of a diverse group of practitioners and experts representing a cross-section of the building and construction industry. The key elements of USGBC's consensus process include a balanced and transparent committee structure, technical advisory groups that ensure scientific consistency and rigor, opportunities for stakeholder comment and review, member ballot of new rating systems, and a fair and open appeals process.

LEED Rating Systems

[New Construction](#)

LEED for New Construction and Major Renovations is designed to guide and distinguish high-performance commercial and institutional projects.

[Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance](#)

LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance provides a benchmark for building owners and operators to measure operations, improvements and maintenance.

[Commercial Interiors](#)

LEED for Commercial Interiors is a benchmark for the tenant improvement market that gives the power to make sustainable choices to tenants and designers.

[Core & Shell](#)

LEED for Core & Shell aids designers, builders, developers and new building owners in implementing sustainable design for new core and shell construction.

[Schools](#)

LEED for Schools recognizes the unique nature of the design and construction of K-12 schools and addresses the specific needs of school spaces.

[Retail](#)

LEED for Retail recognizes the unique nature of retail design and construction projects and addresses the specific needs of retail spaces.

[Healthcare](#)

LEED for Healthcare promotes sustainable planning, design and construction for high-performance healthcare facilities.

[Homes](#)

LEED for Homes promotes the design and construction of high-performance green homes.

[Neighborhood Development](#)

LEED for Neighborhood Development integrates the principles of smart growth, urbanism and green building into the first national program for neighborhood design.

[LEED Rating System Drafts](#)

Review and comment on proposed final drafts of new and updated LEED Rating Systems.

[LEED Frequently Asked Questions](#)

This is a great resource for first time LEED users and experienced project team members alike.

<http://www.gbci.org/>

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