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Bulletin Board: A Post From the Community

DECO Awards JJC \$296,243 Rebate for Sustainable Buildings

Posted By Joliet Junior College , [Community Contributor](#)

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Joliet Junior College was recently awarded a \$296,243 rebate from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the energy efficient designs of both the Health Professions Center and the Natural Sciences expansion. advertisement

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) is an applied research program at the University of Illinois that provides services at no cost to Illinois businesses and facilities. The rebate application was submitted on JJC's behalf by SEDAC. Besides many sustainable features both buildings had, the rebate was awarded to the college because the Health Professions Center and the Natural Sciences expansion exceeded the Illinois Energy Conservation Code.

The rebate money will be reinvested into future energy saving modifications at the college, according to JJC Facility Services Director Pat Van Duyne.

"Energy conservation has been integral to the Facility Services division at JJC since the 1970s," Van Duyne said. "This rebate is just another way to stretch our funding for energy reduction projects and to promote JJC as a leader in energy conservation by effectively reducing utility costs."

JJC's Health Professions Center was built in spring 2013 and houses the Nursing, Allied Health and Emergency Services Department. The building is 124,000 square feet and includes sustainable features such as a geothermal system beneath the parking lot that reduces the heating and cooling load and LED light fixtures that require half the energy use of traditional lights. The Health Professions Center, which was declared LEED Gold last winter, is 37 percent more efficient than a standard facility of the same size.

The Natural Sciences expansion, built in spring 2012, is 37,000 square feet and includes sustainable applications like fixtures that use 20 percent less water than standard counterparts, a high-efficiency building envelope, abundant natural light throughout the building, and passive solar shading. The Natural Sciences addition is LEED Silver certified.

In 2009, JJC signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment which included a pledge to build all new campus construction to a minimum of U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver standards, making sustainability a top priority for the institution.

All buildings that the college has constructed since 2009 have been built to LEED standards.

or more information about sustainability at JJC, visit www.jjc.edu/about/committees/sustainable-campus. To view a LEED scorecard for JJC buildings, visit <http://www.jjc.edu/about/committees/sustainable-campus/Documents/JJC%20LEED%20Projects%20Scorecard%2020120424.pdf>.