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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Sheila O'Connor
Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(402) 457-2733
soconnor7@mccneb.edu
www.mccneb.edu

MCC RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

OMAHA, Neb.— Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) South Omaha Campus Connector Building received a LEED Silver Rating for sustainable construction, becoming the first project to be recognized in the College's drive to implement green building practices in all new buildings.

The \$17 million Connector Building, completed in 2007, is the result of a unique three-way partnership among the City of Omaha, Metro Area Transit and the College. The building bridges the educational buildings on the South Omaha campus and the joint Omaha Public Library-MCC South Omaha branch library and also incorporates a bus terminal.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council to recognize environmentally friendly building practices in construction or renovation.

Areas in which MCC scored points for environmentally friendly building include:

- **Redevelopment:** The South Omaha Campus reused an industrial brownfield site—that is, the former Omaha Stockyards. The project also earned points for the use of concrete parking lots and white roofing materials, both of which reduce heat islands.
- **Recycling:** Recycled building materials and local materials were used where possible to avoid expending energy through transportation. Construction waste also was recycled.
- **Energy:** The building's air conditioning equipment uses ozone-friendly refrigerants, and Green Power purchased from OPPD encourages generation of alternative energy.
- **Indoor environmental quality:** A system monitors for carbon dioxide, humidity, occupant comfort and efficiency.
- **Community connectivity:** The connection with Metro Area Transit and the Omaha Public Library and the Pass to Class program, which provides free bus passes for MCC credit students, earned points for innovation and design.

MCC's Board of Governors mandated in 2002 that all new College buildings achieve LEED certification. The College is also seeking LEED certification for its newest addition, the Institute for the Culinary Arts at the Fort Omaha Campus.

The Connector Building includes space for classrooms, faculty advising, a bookstore and learning labs for writing, math and computers. The South Omaha Campus serves 13,000 students annually.