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Introducing LEED 2009 with ... A FreemanWhite LEED Certified Design (Lehigh Valley Hospital—Kasych Family Pavilion)

Charlotte, N.C., November 25, 2008 - For USGBC and the LEED rating system, the last few years have actually fostered far more conversation than actual LEED designated buildings or people. This is especially true with regard to healthcare building types. Nevertheless, this fact hasn't taken away the appeal of acquiring LEED designation –whether building (certification) or a person (accreditation).

In the latest issue of *Medical Construction & Design* magazine, John Fendley, AIA and LEED AP was given the opportunity to discuss USGBC improvements to LEED as well as highlight FreemanWhite LEED certified design, i.e., Lehigh Valley's Kasych Family Pavilion. John's article is "Revolution to Evolution: A Preview of LEED 2009" and can be found at: http://www.mcdmag.com/NovemberDecember2008/FdMCD1108_38-44-IF-LEED2.pdf

Whether well-versed or just interested in the LEED rating system, John's article outlines a number of issues that have enhanced the future of both measuring and promoting green building. Below is a brief description of these improvements.

The Rating System

Credit Clarity – Update credits within the rating system

Development Cycle – Enable the system to adjust to a rapidly changing green building industry by incorporating the latest sustainable knowledge, applications and materials

Credit Weighting – Reflect credit importance through credit weighting

Regionalization – Recognize the uniqueness of regional environmental priorities

Exemplary Performance – Encourage more innovation

Initiative II – Move the oversight of the LEED certification to a non-profit organization called Green Building Certification Institute in order to produce a smoother, more responsive and less costly certification process.

Initiative III – Complete a comprehensive technology upgrade to LEED-Online meant to improve user experience and expand USGBC's portfolio management capabilities.