FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GreenTown Joplin and Drury University partner to design and build demonstration eco-home for tornado-stricken Joplin

JOPLIN, MO - GreenTown Joplin is pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with the Drury University Hammons School of Architecture to develop and construct a demonstration eco-home in Joplin. Nine students will spend this semester researching and designing a unique home that will be used by GreenTown Joplin as an education center and office. Fundraising will take place this spring and summer, with construction slated to begin in the fall.

The home, dubbed the Monarch Eco-Home, is part of GreenTown's Chain of Eco-Homes (CoEH) program. The CoEH are permanent demonstration projects that are open to the public and serve as community information hubs for sustainability and environmental initiatives relating to sustainable disaster recovery. They act as information clearinghouses for sustainable building and living practices and explore the numerous approaches to creating an energy efficient & healthy home environment.

"This is a unique opportunity to educate both the residents of Joplin as well as the students - the future designers of new buildings - about the benefits and practice of constructing sustainable buildings," said Joah Bussert, project director for the Monarch Eco-Home.

The introduction of an eco-home in Joplin will provide residents and students with the opportunity to witness firsthand the construction of a sustainable home. Progress will be documented via the GreenTown and Drury University websites, as well as other outlets, with detailed information about the process and products provided. Residents will be able to gain an intimate knowledge of the construction practices employed and learn invaluable tips and methods to consider in the reconstruction of their own homes. The construction site will also be open to visitors through tours and demonstration events.

The home will use a unique concrete wall system donated by TF Forming Systems,located in Springfield. The system, known as vertical Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF), is designed to withstand the high winds found in severe weather such as hurricanes and tornadoes. It also provides an advantage for energy efficiency. Based on research by Building Works, Inc., homes built with ICF exterior walls require an estimated 44% less energy to heat and 32% less energy to cool than comparable houses built using traditional wood-frame construction. Over the course of the project, TF will also provide students with the education and training required to design and build using this cutting-edge technology.

The parent company of Joplin Concrete, The Monarch Cement Company of Humboldt, Kansas, provided seed funding for the project, with additional support provided by the Portland Cement Association. George Van Hoesen of Global Green Building will provide construction management and energy efficiency consulting.

About GreenTown JoplinGreenTown
Joplin is a project of Greensburg GreenTown, the nonprofit organization that helped Greensburg, Kansas, rebuild a "green," energy-efficient community after the tornado of May 2007 destroyed most of the town. GreenTown staff members have been working in Joplin since August of 2011, having assembled a committee of sustainability experts from the area to assist residents, business owners and the city as they recover and rebuild after the devastating tornado of May 2011. More information is available at http://www.greentownjoplin.org.
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About Drury University Hammons School of Architecture
Established in 1984 at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, the Hammons School of Architecture is an accredited five-year professional degree program, which offers a Master of Architecture degree. The required architecture courses are integrated with the liberal arts curriculum of the university. The objective of this integrated curriculum approach is preparation for professional architectural practice within the broadest possible educational context. More information is available at http://www.drury.edu/hsa/.
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