



PRESS RELEASE

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Center for Green Schools Names 2012 President's Award Recipients

San Francisco – (Nov. 14, 2012) – [The Center for Green Schools](#) at the [U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\)](#) today recognized the two recipients of the 2012 Center for Green Schools President's Awards, Dr. Wim Wiewel of Portland State University and Dr. Jerry Weber of the College of Lake County. Presented in partnership with [United Technologies Corporation](#), founding sponsor of the Center for Green Schools, this award recognizes outstanding individuals in the higher education community from both two- and four-year institutions, who show exemplary and bold leadership on their campuses, in local communities and with their peers nationally.

The awards were presented by Geraud Darnis, president and CEO of United Technologies Climate, Controls & Security, at the opening plenary of the USGBC's [Greenbuild International Conference and Expo](#) held in San Francisco.

"Green schools enhance learning, improve the energy efficiency of school buildings and promote environmental stewardship," said Darnis. "Green schools demonstrate that where we learn matters."

"The Presidential Award aims to highlight change makers who are truly setting the bar for excellence when it comes to system-wide sustainability in the higher education community," said Rachel Gutter, director of the Center for Green Schools at USGBC. "Both Dr. Wiewel and Dr. Weber have made a deep and lasting commitment to sustainability through their leadership and dedication that will leave legacies for their respective campuses and others across the country."

Wim Wiewel, president of Portland State University (PSU), was selected for his outstanding leadership in sustainability at a four-year institution. Under Wiewel's leadership, PSU has been awarded a \$25 million sustainability grant by the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, added an "Electric Avenue" that provides real-world testing of cutting edge electric vehicle charging technology, built a new green building research lab, developed a comprehensive climate action plan and received LEED certification for eight buildings on campus. Wiewel continues to incorporate sustainability into the school's curriculum including providing grants to students with "sustainable ideas" for transforming the community.

"Portland State has long been a leader in community engagement," said Wim Wiewel, president of PSU. "We see our commitment to sustainability as a key component of our interest in partnering with our city and region on the most important challenge facing us all. I appreciate the U.S. Green Building Council's leadership in providing clear strategies early on for how campus development can be an integral expression of our commitment. This award has been earned by the efforts of many at PSU over the past decade."

Jerry Weber, president of College of Lake County, was selected as the recipient at a two-year institution for his vision, hard work and dedication to sustainability on his own campus, across the state of Illinois and in leadership positions nationally. Weber serves as the chair of the American Association of Community Colleges' Sustainability Task Force, and advises the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), a president-led initiative he co-founded that provides strategic direction to community colleges around green jobs training.

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“At the College of Lake County we are building a greener campus toward climate neutrality,” Weber said. “The most important achievement has been that we are doing that work by partnering with all 48 community colleges in our state through the Illinois Green Economy Network. I am honored to accept this award on behalf of IGEN, a state-focused initiative, as well as the national community college collaborations of [the Sustainability Education and Economic Development \(SEED\) Center](#) that joins over 460 community colleges to accelerate development of green campuses and a green workforce.”

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About the Center for Green Schools

The Center for Green Schools at USGBC is making sure every student has the opportunity to attend a green school within this generation. From kindergarten to college and beyond, the Center works directly with staff, teachers, faculty, students, administrators, elected officials and communities to drive the transformation of all schools into sustainable places to live and learn, work and play. For more information, visit centerforgreenschools.org or find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC works toward its mission of market transformation through its LEED green building certification program, robust educational offerings, a nationwide network of chapters and affiliates, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org or find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About United Technologies Corp.

United Technologies Corp., based in Hartford, Connecticut, is a diversified company providing high technology products and services to the building and aerospace industries. www.utc.com.

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