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CONTACT: Tenille Nuckols, (804) 262-0100, tnuckols@kbsgc.com

KBS AWARDED VCU INGER RICE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE SCIENCES

(Richmond, VA) — Construction is underway on Virginia Commonwealth University's new Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences.

The project is scheduled to be completed this spring with a platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

The 6,000-square-foot educational facility is located on the banks of the James River in Charles City County, a prime location for the Center's outreach environmental education programs for middle and high school students.

The center will house classrooms and laboratories for environmental and biological research. The building functions more than simply the study of environmental issues; it is sustainably designed to be operationally sensitive to environmental issues.

The building is comprised of three distinct spaces: a multi-purpose resource room for teachers, faculty and researchers; a multipurpose area for classroom and laboratory use; and an administration center. There are several environmentally friendly amenities weaved into the design of the proactive research facility. Special sustainable design features include a geothermal heating and cooling system, recycled building materials, cisterns to collect rainwater for toilets, and water-efficient plumbing fixtures. Additionally, the building was designed to maximize the availability of natural light, thereby reducing the need for artificial lighting.

This new VCU facility embodies its educational purpose by taking the lead in sustainable design standards.

Other KBS LEED projects include the corporate headquarters for CarMax, an educational building for University of Mary Washington and the Roanoke office for the Social Security Administration.

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