PRESS RELEASE

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Center for Green Schools at U.S. Green Building Council Announces "Coolest Teachers" in the Country

Boston and Sacramento public school teachers selected to embark on Antarctic expedition thanks to exemplary green classroom efforts

Washington, D.C. (Jan. 23, 2012) – The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, in conjunction with 2041, Ltd., today announced the recipients of its "Coolest Teacher in the World" search, a distinction that will take two teachers on a two-week expedition to Antarctica with renowned polar explorer Robert Swan, O.B.E. The search took place in the Boston and Sacramento public school districts, and teachers were selected based on their efforts to make their classrooms healthy, supportive places to teach students about environmental and civic responsibility.

Cate Arnold from Boston Latin School and Kim Williams from the Sacramento City Unified School District were selected as representatives of USGBC for the Antarctic expedition, beginning Feb. 27, 2012. They will join more than 90 other participants from every corner of the globe.

"The Center for Green Schools at USGBC launched this search to highlight the outstanding efforts teachers coast to coast are leading to green their schools and their curriculum. Cate and Kim are committed to transforming their schools into healthier, more sustainable learning environments," said Rachel Gutter, director of the Center for Green Schools. "Throughout the expedition and upon their return, they will draw from their experience to empower other teachers throughout the country to step up as leaders of the green schools movement."

The teachers were selected through an application process conducted by USGBC's first two Center for Green Schools Fellows located in Boston Public Schools and Sacramento City Unified School District. The Fellowship program, sponsored by United Technologies, provides partner school districts with a fully-funded, dedicated expert who collaborates with district leadership to bring sustainable and environmentally responsible practices into schools.

Through checklists, photos and an essay, the selected teachers detailed concrete examples of how they were greening their school through interactions with students, teachers, faculty and staff.

"The only way in which we can change how we utilize the Earth is through education, which means through our educators," said Robert Swan. "Teachers are our greatest resource for change on this planet. We must support, respect and compensate them for the task we have given them – our future. It is in their hands."

Arnold was chosen for her work with a student-led sustainability program that has directly impacted energy usage and wellness in the school. She and her students raise funds each year to pay for an

annual summit for students and teachers in the Greater Boston area, leading to five summits that have reached over 2,000 students and educators from more than 200 schools.

"We have a responsibility as educators to teach our children what it means to be good environmental stewards, so we are pleased to have one of our own be recognized for her efforts in this area," said Dr. Carol Johnson, superintendent of Boston Public Schools.

Williams was highlighted for her collaboration with local higher education institutions to bring the creativity and expertise of science, engineering and math graduate students and faculty into her classroom. In order to teach her students where their food comes from, and to provide healthy food choice opportunities, she also started a school garden along with a registered 4-H Junior Master Gardener Program.

"I've always known that our teachers are the coolest, and this fantastic honor confirms it!" said Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent Jonathan P. Raymond. "I am thrilled for Kim and for the wonderful learning experience she will be able to share with her students. And, of course, I am very grateful to the U.S. Green Building Council and 2041 for affording her the opportunity to explore this exciting frontier."

Sacramento and Boston have 108,000 students and almost 13,000 teachers and staff, all of whom will benefit through constant contact with the two teacher representatives. Each will keep a daily blog with observations and photos, updated on the Center for Green Schools website, and will answer student and teacher questions as they experience the stunning beauty of the Antarctic continent.

For more information on the search, please visit centerforgreenschools.org/coolestteacher

About U.S. Green Building Council
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, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

About the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council
The Center for Green Schools is how USGBC is making sure every student has the opportunity to attend a green school within this generation. From the kindergartner entering the classroom, to the Ph.D. student performing research in a lab, the Center provides the resources and support to elevate dialogue, accelerate policy and institute innovation toward green schools and campuses. High-performing schools result in high-performing students, and 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 www.centerforgreenschools.org, or Twitter and Facebook.

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