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Lincoln Sustainability Expert to Critique U.S. Capitol Complex

LINCOLN—On June 23-24, W. Cecil Steward, FAIA, president of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, will be joining 14 other sustainability experts in Washington, D.C. to explore scientific and technical issues related to energy and sustainability throughout the U.S. Capitol Complex.

Invited by the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the National Research Council, Steward will evaluate the 25 major buildings comprising the U.S. Capitol Complex including the Capitol building, the House and Senate office building, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the U.S. Botanic Gardens and other support facilities.

The ultimate goal of the AOC is to learn about state-of-the-art methods and technologies for enhancing the sustainability of its facilities and surrounding grounds. Also under expert review will be a draft of the Sustainability Framework Plan and the identification of energy and sustainability strategies for several upcoming projects.

The two-day meeting will cover all areas of expertise including: architecture, engineering, historic preservation, sustainable design, energy efficiency, urban planning, building performance, engineering economics, building materials and technologies.

Steward said, “The historic conditions and the symbolic context of these buildings offer our nation perhaps the most important opportunity on the planet for demonstration of ‘best practices’ for carbon reduction and energy efficiency in building retrofits. I am looking forward to participating with the partnership of colleagues around the nation and our federal government in this search for a new commitment on sustainability.”

Biographical Background

W. Cecil Steward, FAIA, is a world expert on sustainable development and sustainable design. Dean emeritus and emeritus professor of architecture and planning at the University of Nebraska College of Architecture in Lincoln, he is president and founder of the International North/North Network for Urban Sustainability and the Joslyn Institute for

Sustainable Communities, Omaha/Lincoln. A past president of the national American Institute of Architects (AIA), Steward has served on the boards of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the AIA and on the charter board for the Architectural Research Centers Consortium. He serves on the boards of directors of the Asia/Pacific Center for Architecture, the national Design Futures Council, and the steering committee of the United Nations Center for Human Settlements Best Practices Network and its international Dubai Award for Best practices in Sustainable Development, among others.

In public service he is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Lincoln Association, the Lincoln Children's Museum, and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Commission. In 2005, he started the Nebraska Center for Sustainable Construction (NCSC), which operates a recycled building materials store, EcoStores Nebraska, in Lincoln. Through the NCSC and EcoStores Nebraska, workshops to train new prospective employees for the local construction industry with experience in deconstruction will begin fall 2009. Currently, he is conducting Nebraska Sustainability Leadership workshops throughout fifteen counties across southeastern Nebraska. The day-and-a-half workshops engage select mayors, council members, city managers, and other leaders to discuss sustainability issues, water-management, efficient and alternative energy practices, and waste management and other issues central to their communities.

He is a member of the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission where he assisted in the writing of the first design guidelines for urban protection of the Nebraska Capitol building.

At the national level he has served on the national Peer Review Committee for design reviews of selected General Services Administration projects, and as a member of the Pennsylvania Avenue Design Charrette Team in Washington, D.C.

At the international level he served as a member of the National Committee on U.S./China Relations, and the UNESCO-sponsored design charrette team for the international Memorial to West African Slave Trade, Dakar, Senegal. Since 1984, he has served as a consultant to the Peoples Republic of China in establishing accreditation and licensing for architects.

More information on the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities can be found on the web site: www.ecospheres.com.

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