



MEDIA RELEASE

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Peter Basso Associates Wins Two Regional ASHRAE Technology Awards

Troy, MI, October 24, 2011 – After winning First Place Chapter Chapter and Regional Awards in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Technology Awards Program, Peter Basso Associates has garnered two Honorable Mention Awards at Society Level for the new Saginaw Valley State University Crystal M. Lange College of Health and Human Services Building and the St. Clair County Community College North Building HVAC System Renovation. The ASHRAE technology awards program recognizes excellence in design in the following areas: Energy Efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, Innovation, Operation & Maintenance, Cost Effectiveness, and Environmental Impact. Firm principal, Wayne Kerbelis, was project manager for both projects.

Both buildings employ a geothermal heating and cooling system; however, the College of Health and Human Services building has a pond closed loop geothermal system--the largest in the State of Michigan and dubbed an "Aquathermal" system--while at the North Building project, a geexchange "slinky coil" system is buried under a new porous pavement parking lot and is a source for the water-to-water heat pumps that replace the old individual room unitary heating and cooling units.

The new two-story, 95,975 gross square foot Health and Human Services Building at Saginaw Valley State University houses faculty offices, instructional classrooms, lecture halls, hospital bed simulation labs, motion analysis labs, operation room simulation labs and a research Vivarium. The energy savings achieved for this building in comparison to a conventional ASHRAE 90.1-2004 system are 35.4%, with annual energy usage of 116,036 btu's per square foot. The building is designed to achieve LEED® Silver and the University is waiting certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The existing two-story, 58,885 gross square foot North Building at St. Clair County Community College houses faculty offices, instructional classrooms, laboratories, a gymnasium and fitness area. The College desired replacing the old HVAC system with a highly energy efficient, state-of-the-art HVAC system that could be a showcase for their students and the community. The challenge was retrofitting a 1920 building with the latest HVAC technology and doing that in a dense city setting without generating noise to the surrounding area. The closed loop underground geexchange system met both those needs. The new system achieves 30% energy savings over the previous system with 119,596 btu's per square foot annual energy usage.

Peter Basso Associates is a 100% employee-owned MEP engineering firm specializing in the design of technically challenging, sustainable and high performance mechanical/electrical systems primarily to the Education, Healthcare/Laboratory, and Commercial/Governmental markets. Headquartered in Troy, Michigan, the firm also has offices in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona.

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