



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 14, 2009

Contact: Carissa Matthews  
(315) 443-3507  
[cmatthews@syracusecoe.org](mailto:cmatthews@syracusecoe.org)

## **St. Joseph's Expansion To Become Model For Healthy, Green Healthcare Facilities**

A workshop titled "Innovative Healthcare Facilities – Green, Healthy, and Humane" took place this Monday at the SyracuseCoE Opportunity Exchange at Healthy Buildings 2009. The team of presenters, including representatives from St. Josephs Hospital, King & King Architects, Hueber-Breuer, The Pike Company, and NYSERDA, discussed the healthy building practices being implemented during the second phase of the St. Joseph's expansion. The hospital is aiming to achieve LEED Silver Certification upon completion of the project.

Issues of air and environmental quality are particularly important in hospitals, where staff effectiveness is critical and patient success demands an setting that is conducive to healing.

Wayne Palmetter of Hueber-Breue consulted with the hospital on implementing practices to improve indoor air quality and prevent infectious contaminants from entering and developing in the hospital. "One of the biggest problems during construction is moisture control," said Palmetter. His firm works to keep building materials, particularly highly absorbent ones, dry from delivery to installation. They also keep airborne particulates from masonry, earthwork, and exhaust fumes from entering the hospital and disrupting patients with impaired immune systems.

David Johnson of King & King guided the 30+ audience members through graphic models of the hospital while explaining the design, which was conceptualized to provide a healthy environment to hospital employees and patients. Floor plans of the multi-story building narrow as they ascend, allowing light to penetrate to the ground level. Light flow, integral to staff alertness and patient well-being, is further promoted in glass walls around the perimeter and between patient rooms and the main corridor. Additional design considerations for hospital functionality include like-handed rooms for physician's convenience, decentralized nursing support care pods, negative air systems which isolate and discard contaminants, wind studies of the area with responsive landscaping, and larger rooms with separate areas for caregivers and equipment, patient care, and family.

According to Chris Carrick of NYSERDA, the St. Joseph's expansion is likely to become a demonstration project for the healthcare industry on both a state and national level. "This project has met the many challenges of finding a balance between functionality and sustainability in a healthcare building," said Carrick, who continues to work to find funding for the building. Potential developments include a solar roof that could supply 100 kW of power, providing a significant energy saving to the hospital. St. Josephs has already committed to building a green roof on at least 50% of the property and developing a greenway park and site drainage, which will beautify Syracuse and decrease demand on the city's water treatment facility.

Lawrence J. Clark, an audience member attending on behalf of Clark Air Systems, asked the panel how new technologies are vetted in the midst of new developments in the industry. While return on investment from an operational or financial perspective is a partial consideration, Johnson added that sometimes the management team will hold out for a new technology during the building process. Proven systems are part of the mix, but this project is also about pushing the envelope.

**-Sarah Krisch, HB2009 Ground Reporter**

*Syracuse Center of Excellence ([syracusecoe.org](http://syracusecoe.org)) is a collaborative organization of more than 200 businesses and institutions that creates innovations for sustainable built and urban environments. SyracuseCoE members work on research, development, and educational projects relating to clean and renewable energy, indoor environmental quality, and water resources.*

###