



200 Brickstone Square  
Andover, MA 01810

P 978-296-6289  
F 978-475-5768

# News Release

**Release Date** Immediate  
**Contact** Katie Schultz, Marketing Communications Manager, (978) 296-6289  
kschultz@rdkengineers.com  
**Art** See Attached

## **RDK Engineers Celebrates Opening of First State-Funded Zero Net Energy Building.**

DANVERS, MA (OCTOBER 17, 2011) – **On a beautiful fall afternoon, RDK Engineers (RDK) joined over 100 spectators in celebrating the grand opening of North Shore Community College’s new Health Professions and Student Services Building, the first state-funded Zero Net Energy Building (ZNEB).** At the opening, speakers described the opening as a great day for Massachusetts and the college, and praised the facility as the standard for future buildings of its type.

RDK provided MEP engineering services for the three-story, 58,700 SF building. DiMella Shaffer served as the architect and Walsh Brothers as the contractor. Ten years in the making, the building consolidates the college’s allied health professions programs – including nursing, animal sciences, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and medical assistance disciplines – under one roof.

A building is classified as a ZNEB if the amount of energy produced onsite is equal to or greater than the amount of energy consumed on a yearly basis. In addition to being the first state-funded ZNEB, the Health Professions and Student Services building is the second largest facility of its type in the nation, second only to a Department of Energy building in Colorado. Sustainable features include a green roof; rainwater collection systems; photovoltaic panels on the roof and walkway canopies; a geothermal heating and cooling system; ground source heat pumps; rain gardens; and high-efficiency mechanical and electrical systems. The building is targeting LEED Gold Certification, with annual energy savings estimated at \$100,000 per year.

Speakers at the grand opening included U.S. Representative John Tierney; Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard Sullivan; and DCAM Commissioner Carole Cornelison. A letter from State Senator John F. Kerry, praising the sustainable merits of the new building, was read to the crowd.

“North Shore Community College’s dedication to sustainability and green technology is represented by this new facility,” said Project Manager and RDK Principal Chris Hildreth. “RDK Engineers is committed to energy-efficient design practices, and it was great to work on a building that will both serve students and be a model for future sustainable facilities.”

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### **About RDK Engineers**

RDK Engineers has specialized in providing high-quality Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Tel Data, and Fire Protection engineering services for over 100 years. Today, RDK has a staff of 200 multi-disciplined engineers and administrative professionals located in Andover, Amherst, and Boston, MA, as well as Charlotte and Durham, NC. RDK delivers total building solutions to leading businesses and institutions nationwide. For more information, please visit

[www.rdkengineers.com](http://www.rdkengineers.com).



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### **About DiMella Shaffer**

DiMella Shaffer is an award-winning architecture design firm with offices in Boston, MA and Seattle, WA. Clients include Boston University, Harvard University, Bridgewater State College, and Brandeis University. For more information, please visit [www.dimellashaffer.com](http://www.dimellashaffer.com).

### **About Walsh Brothers**

Located in Boston, MA, Walsh Brothers is a family-owned firm that has been in business since 1901. Walsh Brothers has built and restored some of the most recognized landmarks in New England. Clients include Boston University, Emmanuel College, and MIT. For more information, please visit [www.walshbrothers.com](http://www.walshbrothers.com).

### **Captions for attached photos:**

Photo 1: The exterior of the new Health Professions & Student Services Building at North Shore Community College.  
PHOTO1



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