

Home built by students is a LEED-certified energy saver

BY LYNN MOORE

THE MUSKEGON CHRONICLE

MUSKEGON COUNTY — Anyone who wonders if the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center really provides students with usable job skills can take a look at a new home constructed to high energy-efficiency standards during an upcoming public open house.

A public ribbon-cutting at 3 p.m. Thursday at the student-built, LEED-certified home at 2543 Chestnut Trail will precede the annual fall open house that begins at 4 p.m. at the nearby Career Tech Center, 200 Harvey.

The home was built by 49 students in three CTC courses using green building practices. The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded the home a silver LEED — Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design — award, which represents a five-star plus Energy Star rating.

The energy-efficient home's features include low-emission carpets and paints, a high-energy furnace with heat recovery vents system, low-flow toilets and on-demand hot water heater.

The Alliance for Environmental Sustainability provided assistance to CTC students in passing the rigorous inspections required for LEED homes. Calvin DeLano, executive director of the AES, praised the CTC for making sure students are trained in the most current construction techniques.

"These are skills they will need to seek and find employment in the future as building standards and techniques are changing," DeLano said.

Students who built the home, which is listed for sale

for \$145,000, were enrolled in the CTC's construction trades LEED; electrical/electronic technologies; and heating, ventilation, air conditioning/refrigeration courses.

In all, the CTC offers 20 programs to high school juniors and seniors, which include such diverse career fields as marketing/E-commerce; graphic production; restaurant, catering and culinary management; and welding.

The open house will offer tours and demonstrations by students and staff until 8 p.m. It will include college representatives, financial aid information, door prizes, a silent auction and refreshments.

The student-built home on Chestnut Trail also will be open to the public until 8 p.m.

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FACT SHEET



Student-built home for sale

Location: 2543 Chestnut Trail, off North Sheridan Drive north of MacArthur Road in Muskegon Township.

Standard features: Three bedrooms, 2½ baths, main floor laundry, oak floors, central air, composite deck, attached two-stall garage.

Green features: LEED silver rating, high-efficiency

furnace with heat recovery vent system, low-flow toilet, on-demand hot water heater, low-emission carpet and paint.

Other: Landscaped lot, irrigation system, 1,167 square feet, underground utilities, Orchard View school district.

Price: \$145,000

Agent: Jim McClain, Five Star Professionals