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For Release
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ECU Department of Construction Management Awarded Research Grant from U.S. Green Building Council

Washington, DC (9-15-2008) – The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded a research grant to three faculty members from the East Carolina University Department of Construction Management. The faculty members were among an elite group of academic recipients of the 2008 Green Building Research Fund grants. The Green Building Research Fund was created to spur research that will advance sustainable building practices and encourage market transformation. The USGBC committed \$2 million to the program, while the Research Fund is generating \$1,150,825 in matching funds and leveraging additional activities and partnerships.

“We’ve identified an enormous need for green building research,” said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO and Founding Chair of USGBC. “The research grants are part of USGBC’s commitment to better understand what is working and what more can be done, which will inform USGBC’s programs and the entire building industry.”

Continued Fedrizzi, “The selected proposals drive knowledge, policies, tools and technologies and inspire corresponding industry and government-wide action.”

USGBC’s Research Committee, in its role as the grant selection panel, reviewed 216 pre-proposals and 38 full proposals, spanning a broad range of topics, including K-12 school facility research. The highly competitive field was narrowed down to 13 final selections. Grants ranging from \$90,000 to \$250,000 were awarded to the 13 research teams.

Yuhong Wang, David Batie and George Wang of ECU’s Department of Construction Management received a grant of more than \$200,000 for their research project entitled “*Improvement of Porous Pavement System for On-site Stormwater Management.*” The funds include monies awarded from USGBC as well as a matching fund component involving East Carolina University and generous contributions from Barnhill Contracting Company.

Porous pavement is an alternative to impermeable pavement and allows stormwater to drain through the pavement and infiltrate into the soils. The benefits of using porous pavement include reduction in peak flows and volumes of runoff, removal of pollutants from stormwater, reduction in soil erosion, and others. The purpose of this study is to address some concerns on porous pavement and to make further improvements. Additionally, it is anticipated that this study will make porous pavement more affordable and environmentally friendly.

To see the list of grant recipients and research abstracts, or to learn more about the US Green Building Council, visit www.usgbc.org. For more information about this release, please contact Chris Stansbury, Communications Coordinator for the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science at (252) 328-9611.