UC SANTA BARBARA

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Going Platinum

The U.S. Green Building Council has awarded UC Santa Barbara's Sierra Madre Villages student housing complex the much-coveted LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) platinum certification. The newest campus housing project to date, Sierra Madre Villages is the first residential complex in the UC system to attain the highest possible rating for its efficient and sustainable design under the category "LEED for Homes." UCSB is the only campus in the system with any "LEED for Homes" certifications.

Sierra Made Villages consists of six residential buildings, each certified at the platinum level. Of its 151 apartments, 115 are available to student residents and 36 are reserved for faculty and staff. Since the complex's opening in September 2015, residents have enjoyed state-of-the-art sustainable design, with optimized natural ventilation and lighting, low-flow plumbing, solar thermal heating, photovoltaic electrical generation and 100-percent LED lighting. Additionally, appliances and materials for the furnishings were chosen based on sustainability and durability. Outside, the complex features stormwater retention elements, trash recycling and an ongoing wetland restoration project.

"UCSB Housing and Residential Services' goals are to protect, preserve and regenerate our environment and resources by implementing earth friendly practices at every opportunity," said Barry Colwell, UCSB associate director of building development and resource planning in the Department of Housing & Residential Services. **"**These efforts will have a positive impact on the environment and support the UCSB community in becoming an ever more sustainable environment for

everyone.”

Other housing complexes on the UCSB campus are also LEED certified. The Anacapa, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa residence halls each have received a LEED Gold certification, while the San Clemente Village apartment complex was awarded two LEED Gold certifications. According to Colwell, the San Joaquin apartment complex, currently under construction, is aiming for multiple gold certifications “while looking for opportunities to go platinum.”

The campus is also home to Bren Hall, the first LEED-certified building of any kind in the UC system, and the first-ever building in the nation to achieve a LEED “Double Platinum” sustainability rating.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.