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The Ella at ENCORE! Tampa earns Gold LEED certification

KIMBERLY PATTERSON | TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

The Ella at ENCORE! Tampa has been awarded a prestigious LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The apartment building, one of four newly built in the planned community designed to accommodate 2,500 residents on 40 acres between downtown Tampa and Ybor City, is already at full capacity. The neighborhood developers are working to build and attract retail and other amenities to further serve residents.

The developers -- the Tampa Housing Authority along with the Bank of America CDC -- sponsored a celebration of the LEED certification in March attended by Ed Jennings, the highest ranking HUD official in the southeastern United States.

“The LEED Gold Certification for Ella at ENCORE! means this building is a showcase example of sustainable design,” says VP and COO Leroy Moore, Sr. of the Tampa Bay Housing Authority. “LEED Gold certification requires efficiency in design at every level starting with building orientation to maximize solar exposure, a commitment to some of the most advanced energy efficient equipment from windows and doors, water conservation, waste recycling, heating and cooling, low emitting, volatile organic compounds in finishes such as carpeting and painting, just to name a few.”

Robert Ledford of Baker Barrios, whose design team helped the building achieve the certification, says he is proud of the accomplishment and credits all of the people who were involved.

“This is a great achievement for the team, however, there was a lot of effort on behalf our partnerships to achieve this,” he says. “It is a great win for all of us, and we look forward to the projects ahead.”

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Kimberly Patterson is a news editor for 83 Degrees Media in the Tampa Bay region of Florida.

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Terre Tulsiak · University of Tampa

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