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APRIL 26, 2013

SUMMARY Assurity Center awarded LEED Gold certification

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Assurity Life has received official notification that the company's new home office was awarded LEED[®] (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Tom Henning, Assurity chairman, president and CEO, announced today.

"The Assurity Center represents our company's commitment to being a leader in corporate sustainability," Henning said. "Creating a high-performance, environmentally friendly facility supports our corporate goal of ethical behavior."

The LEED certification program is the internationally recognized benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable buildings. It provides independent verification that the facility is built according to strict environmentally responsible standards developed by USGBC.

"From the beginning, Assurity made it clear that environmental stewardship was a key goal. By attaining LEED Gold certification, Assurity's commitment to the environment and the health of our community is clearly documented," said Lowell Berg of The Clark Enersen Partners, the architecture and engineering firm for the project. "They set very high goals, and this certification shows that those goals were fully met."

USGBC confers the LEED certification according to a point system to determine a building's environmental merits. Gold certification is the second-highest of four LEED rating levels.

LEED Gold certification is based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. LEED-certified buildings are designed using methods to reduce operating costs, conserve energy and water, cut down on waste sent to landfills, reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure a healthy working environment for occupants.

Assurity Center is the largest of the three LEED Gold buildings in Lincoln at 175,000 square feet. It is also the second largest LEED Gold building among the eight in Nebraska.

Groundbreaking for the facility occurred in September 2009. Sampson Construction completed the project including a separate six-level parking garage in November 2011. The Assurity Center opened for business in December 2011.

"Assurity's LEED Gold certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "The urgency of USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to move faster and reach further than ever before, and Assurity serves as a prime example of just how much we can accomplish."