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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **BETHKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACHIEVES FIRST LEED® FOR SCHOOLS GOLD**

Timnath, CO – Bethke Elementary School located in the Poudre School District was recently awarded LEED® for Schools Gold by the USGBC. Bethke is the first school in the nation to achieve Gold Certification under the new USGBC LEED® for Schools category. Shaffer • Baucom Engineering & Consulting (SBEC) is the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer of Record for this project, which has also been designated as the country's first school to earn "3 Green Globes™" with the Green Building Initiative.

SBEC was selected by Poudre School District and RB+B Architects, Inc. to design the \$9,900,000, 63,000 GSF school. Bethke is the fourth construction project to utilize the prototype design, and includes improved energy efficiency designs which reduce operating costs 40-50 percent. The resulting construction costs realized a 10 percent savings as compared to other schools built in the Colorado Front Range region.

Some of Bethke's sustainable features include natural daylighting, a high-efficiency building envelope, state-of-the-art high-efficiency mechanical and electrical systems, operable windows for controlled occupant comfort as well as the use of renewable energy resources. Indoor air quality, lighting control and acoustic considerations were all managed through the building's design. Except for the gymnasium, the school is fully air conditioned through the very energy-efficient use of indirect evaporative cooling.

Shaffer • Baucom Engineering & Consulting is a full-service Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Design Firm specializing in LEED® compliant design and documentation, sustainable design, healthcare facilities, research laboratories, higher education facilities, K-12 facilities, bio-hazardous facilities, central utility plants, pharmaceutical production plants, clean rooms, commercial and medical office buildings, master planning, systems analysis and forensics. To learn more about Shaffer • Baucom Engineering & Consulting and the services we provide, please visit our website at [www.sbengr.com](http://www.sbengr.com).

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