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February 7, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Paint Branch High School Achieves LEED Gold Certification

Gaithersburg, Maryland - **HESS Construction** is pleased to announce that Paint Branch High School has earned LEED Gold certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). The \$81 million Paint Branch High School project was constructed adjacent to the original high school and was completed on time to welcome students for the 2012-2013 school year. The final phase of construction concluded in August 2013 with 93% of construction waste diverted from the landfill through recycling and reuse.

"We're thrilled that Paint Branch High School has earned LEED Gold," said Jim Gladhill, HESS Vice President. "And we're pleased that the students and staff of Montgomery County Public Schools are benefiting from such an advanced environment for teaching and learning."

Featuring an array of amenities, the 340,000 square-foot, three-level school includes 12 science laboratories, a full media-center with television and radio studios, medical career center with pharmacy, culinary arts spaces, library with rotunda, state-of-the-art 900-seat auditorium, and a branch of the Montgomery County Teachers Federal Credit Union. Food service facilities within the school include the Panther Paw restaurant and a full-service cafeteria with traditional, bistro, and patio seating options.

Designed by Moseley Architects, the modernized Paint Branch High School earned Gold certification for the following design and construction components:

- Materials, paints and finishes that emit lower volatile organic compounds (VOC)
- Geothermal HVAC system
- Recycled content of building materials and use of regional materials
- Daylight harvesting
- Occupancy sensor control light fixtures
- Indoor air quality management
- Water conserving plumbing fixtures
- Storm-water management
- Green roof with outdoor classroom space
- Construction waste management
- Energy performance
- Enhanced building commissioning
- Water efficient landscaping

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HESS Construction manages the planning, design, and construction of learning institutions including colleges and universities, K-12 schools, libraries, training centers, fine arts spaces, athletic facilities and laboratories.