

For Immediate Release

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Barone One of First in Texas to Take the New LEEDs Accreditation Exam

January 14, 2005, Houston, Texas— Dean Barone, co-founder and president of Barone Design Group, was one of a handful of Texans who participated and passed the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) new LEEDs Professional Accreditation v.2.1 beta exam. Prior to the new test's full scale implementation in September 2004, over 10,000 candidates rushed in from across the country to take the older exam. Those who tested under the previous version will not be required to take the new test. However, according to officials at USGBC, they are looking into options for continuing education and/or re-test options in the future.

Nation-wide 111 professionals were invited to take the beta test for v.2.1 last July. The new test included 500 questions and took five hours to complete. The v. 2.1 exam, on first go around, has proved to be slightly more difficult with a pass rate of approximately 69 percent in comparison to the older test's 80 percent. However, according to USGBC officials, final modifications were made based on the test run, including axing approximately one-third of the questions asked in the beta version.

So what are the real differences between the two tests? After taking the beta version, Barone arranged to take the older version a week later in order to compare the two exam formats, styles and processes.

"It was a unique challenge to take part in this new test. Overall, it's my takeaway that this new version is not more difficult than the previous," stated Barone. "In fact, in some ways I personally found it easier. I think the professional design and architecture community will have a positive reaction once it's realized the questions in the new version are all derived from accessible resources."

Barone found that the new test covered all the materials in the reference guides and rating system manuals, whereas the older test included questions about information not as readily available in any of the reference materials or workshops. Another observation was that in the new test questions were stated in the positive tense, example: of the four multiple choices, find the answer that best addresses the question. In contrast, the older format asked test takers to identify incorrect statements.

"I can certainly understand professionals not rushing to take a new exam. However, based on my experience, the new test is actually good news for those studying up for the exam in the future," stated Barone.

USGBC's objective for the LEEDs accreditation is to ensure that practitioners have the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in the green design process and to support and encourage integrated design. The exam is designed to test service providers in the design and architecture industry regarding their understanding of green building practices and principles, and familiarity with LEED requirements, resources, and processes. Architecture and design experts representing a cross-section of industry and membership representation and geographic distribution were selected to participate in the beta version of the new exam.

BaroneDesignGroup

About Barone Design Group

Barone Design Group is a solutions-driven architecture and interiors firm with over two decades of experience creating corporate workplace environments and highly technical, industrial, R &D and manufacturing facilities for leading companies worldwide. With the ability to manage large scale corporate and facilities projects, both nationally and internationally, the firm partners with its corporate clients to find solutions that address long-term business needs. With an experienced team of design experts, the firm merges efficiency, style and utility to address the client's workspace objectives.

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