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Sustainable Building Advisor Course Celebrates 10 Years with Alumni Success Video

Seattle, WA, DATE, 2009 — The National Sustainable Building Advisor Program (NaSBAP) and Seattle Central Community College (SCCC) celebrated the tenth year of offering the nine-month Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) certificate course, with an evening celebration honoring SBA Course founders and early supporters. Nationally respected sustainability consultant Kathleen O'Brien, retired director of Energy Management Services for Seattle City Light, Marya Castellano, and Jorge Corrasco, Seattle City Light Superintendent were the recipients of the college's 2009 Innovation Awards.

As the first community college to offer the course, and the longest running course provider, SCCC hosted the celebration on Thursday, September 17th, at the SCCC campus, which offered a sweeping view of the Seattle skyline, and an engaging mix of alumni, course instructors, and well known supporters of sustainability. Over 800 professionals have now taken the course and almost as many have passed the national certification exam which was first offered in 2005, earning the designation of Certified Sustainable Building Advisor (CSBA).

As part of the event, NaSBAP and SCCC screened a new six minute video featuring SBA alumni and NaSBAP Director Kathleen O'Brien. The video, funded by SCCC and produced by SCCTV, highlights how the SBA course has impacted graduates in their professions. The alumni featured in the video represent a wide cross-section of building professionals (an engineer, a facilities manager, a design lead for a residential builder, a sustainability strategist, and a non-profit leader), similar to the diversity typically found in the SBA class.

Ed Brown, featured in the video, also attended the 10th Anniversary celebration. For many years, Ed Brown worked for himself as a building contractor, and until recently that was satisfying enough. Then he decided to look into the SBA Course offered at Olympic College, another course provider in Washington State. He graduated, passed the national certification exam and snagged a job as the Sustainability Specialist for Washington State's Habitat for Humanity organization. In addition to his CSBA designation, Ed wears a smile a mile wide, and will tell anyone who wants to hear that the SBA course was "crucial" in obtaining the job. Ed is only one of the success stories featured in the new video.

The course's success is particularly gratifying to O'Brien whose career in green building started over 25 years ago on the East Coast. "I'm especially happy when we hear back from our graduates about a promotion, new job, or other positive life change they've experienced as a result of taking the course," she says. The video is a lively way of capturing some of the common success stories that result from this course, and sharing with other prospective students looking to make a real difference in their career by taking a professional development course.

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The SBA course is now offered nationally and in Canada – with classes in 20 locations starting up in the coming months. With the many challenges faced by the building industry over the past year, and the ever-growing market shift towards green building, many professionals are looking for ways to stand out among their peers and competitors. Employers have recognized the value of the course, and frequently the course is paid for out of professional development budgets. A prime example is Lisa Rosenow, also featured in the video, who took the course in 2002 when she was just starting her engineering career. She found herself rapidly advancing to a leadership role in her firm. “The principal of my firm at the time said this was the best investment he ever made,” reports Rosenow.

The Alumni Success Video is available on YouTube and on the NaSBAP Website, along with many other written testimonials: www.nasbap.org. Photos of the recent 10th Anniversary celebration will be available on the website soon as well. For information about courses offering the SBA course in North America, please visit: <http://nasbap.org/locations.html>. The course is approved for AIA credits and is recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council as a mastery level course for professionals in the green building field.

For more information on NaSBAP: www.nasbap.org
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