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The Greenbuild Conference attended by Alan Powell thanks to a grant from UNM.

Perspectives is the first word that comes to mind when I think of the conference. Perspectives of the CEO of the United States Greenbuilding Council, the organizer of the event whose enthusiasm and sense of necessity guided the whole event. Perspectives of the head of Clinton Climate Initiative, School Administrators, Architects, Builders, Scientists, and administrators for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). One school administrator from Sidwell Friends School in Maryland was very enthused by the payback from the extra 15% cost to attain potentially LEED platinum certification. His view is there is a future financial payback but more pertinent the payback of student involvement; gardening, recycling, and the building as a teaching tool. As a science project within its walls, which included waste recycling, thus the building as a living machine. Architects presented information that motivated people and also gave concrete ways to build a more sustainable world.

Builders gave their perspective expressing the problems with such a complicated certification process and ways to make it work. What is now a small percentage of "green houses," due to economic reasons and our current misuse of resources, will soon grow to mainstream status.

UNM has a new building which can be used a teaching tool. I have spoken with the architects and want to establish a way to monitor the building to determine if it is living up to its definition of a "green building". They have agreed to assist. Energy expenditures and other design elements can be measured to determine its status. As it sits, it is a teaching tool to show to classes the elements of green design.

Presentations by Architects have fueled my curriculum in content and presentation and that will show up in my classroom. The practicality of a builder's view is ever present at UNM and now I have heard part of that story. One main element of the Conference is, of course, the suppliers. Several have agreed to send samples of materials that can be used in classes. For instance, I would like to construct a corner of a new wall system, two suppliers have agreed to send material for me to use. There is also one Santa Fe group that would be willing to come to the school to demonstrate their product.

The event expanded my view of a growing movement and need to design for life. Attending the workshop on LEED certification reinforced my desire to obtain LEED accreditation and later become accredited in LEED for Homes. This, I think, will enhance my curriculum as it requires focusing on every aspect of construction from waste to air quality.

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