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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HESS and PGCPs Officials Break Ground on \$80M LEED Gold Oxon Hill High School**

Gaithersburg, Maryland - **HESS CONSTRUCTION + ENGINEERING SERVICES, a leading builder of educational facilities in the Mid-Atlantic**, kicked-off construction activities this week at the official ground breaking of the new Oxon Hill High School. Attendees of the ground breaking ceremony included Prince George's County Schools Superintendent William R. Hite Jr., Maryland State Senator C. Anthony Muse, Maryland Delegate Jay Walker, and District 8 Council Member Obie Patterson.

HESS was selected by PGCPs to manage construction of the \$80 million replacement Oxon Hill High School on the current 39-acre site. The existing school will remain in operation during the construction period. Construction activities will be phased over the next 32 months and will conclude in August of 2014.

Utilizing an academy program, the new 250,000 square-foot school includes a three-story academic wing featuring five theme-based learning academies: science and technology; business management and finance; arts and media communication; hospitality and tourism; and consumer services. Science and computer labs reflect the philosophy of the school's Science and Technology magnet program.

Additional features of the new school include an 800-seat auditorium with theatrical stage rigging system, expanded hallways and classrooms, new softball, baseball, and soccer fields as well as 6 tennis courts and a football stadium with ticket booth, plaza, concession stand, restrooms, press-box, and grandstand.

The new Oxon Hill High School was designed by WMCRP Architects to achieve LEED Gold certification in conformance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) through the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Energy saving features can be found throughout the design and include a geothermal well HVAC system, enhanced commissioning, and the use of salvaged building materials and materials that emit lower volatile organic compounds.

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