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## **DELEG Announces Green Lodging Certification for Prince Conference Center at Calvin College** *Facility Earns Steward Certification*

**September 1, 2010** – Prince Conference Center at Calvin College, located in Grand Rapids, has earned Green Lodging Michigan (GLM) Steward certification from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth (DELEG).

Green Lodging Michigan encourages hotels, resorts, motels, and bed & breakfast facilities to implement environmental initiatives and cost-saving “green” practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, protect air quality, reduce waste, and participate in environmentally preferred purchasing.

“Hoteliers across the state who are committed to green business practices are earning this accreditation as the mark of environmental responsibility,” said DELEG Acting Director Andrew S. Levin. “Green Lodging Michigan is an investment in the viability of our lodging facilities and the thousands of jobs related to Michigan’s hospitality industry.”

The Prince Conference Center has implemented several environmental initiatives at their facility. They have a linen and towel reuse program as well as low flow fixtures to conserve water. They reduce waste by recycling materials such as: paper, glass, aluminum, cardboard, plastic, and others. They also compost yard waste and avoid single-use items. Prince Conference Center also uses a computerized energy management system and programmable thermostats for common areas and conference rooms as well as LED exit signs to conserve energy.

“More sustainable practices are not only better for the guests of today, but also guests of tomorrow. Our peer-led Green Team focuses on spreading the word and fostering our current practices, while thinking of new creative strategies to implement. Change is difficult, but when the progress is measurable and the successes many, it creates the positive energy required for this initiative. We look forward to striving to the next level of certification in a short amount of time and are excited for our hotel and conference guests to witness the growth” – Juli Blauwkamp

Green Lodging Michigan is a joint effort between DELEG and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) to encourage the lodging industry to conserve and protect the state's natural resources while increasing marketability and lowering utility costs.

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"Green Lodging Michigan has been an effective way of including hoteliers in the effort to help Michigan continue as the leader in environmental beauty and abundant natural resources," said Rebecca A. Humphries, director, Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

Green Lodging Michigan is a voluntary and non-regulatory certification program offered through the Bureau of Energy Systems in DELEG to hoteliers at no charge. The Bureau of Energy Systems and the DNRE provide technical assistance to those who are interested in implementing "green" strategies and earning certification. The GLM program certifies facilities based on environmental initiatives such as air quality, energy efficiency, solid waste reduction, toxic waste management, water conservation, purchasing and communication. There are three levels of certification: Partner, Steward, and Leader, which can be earned by completing a self-assessment checklist and achieving a minimum number of requirements and points.

The Bureau of Energy Systems promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy resource development to Michigan's residents, businesses, and public institutions. For more information about the Green Lodging Michigan program and to download the GLM application packet and self-assessment checklist, visit the website at [www.michigan.gov/greenlodging](http://www.michigan.gov/greenlodging).

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