



# ***BROADMOOR***

Improvement Association

November 24, 2009

**RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR INNOVATIVE DESIGN**

To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer you the following insight into the architectural and sustainable design qualities provided by Innovative Design at Andrew H. Wilson Elementary School in New Orleans.

In 2006, The Broadmoor Improvement Association (BIA) led a post-disaster grassroots planning effort to repopulate and revitalize the Broadmoor neighborhood of New Orleans. As a result, a Redevelopment Plan for Broadmoor was created. The 319-page comprehensive planning document outlined education as one of the community's top priorities to spur post-disaster recovery efforts and provide families with access to quality public education upon their return. Focused on implementing the plan, the BIA formed the Broadmoor Charter School Board to re-open Andrew H. Wilson School. The school opened in a temporary location in 2007 and the BIA has been working with the State since that time to rebuild its permanent facility in Broadmoor.

New Orleans' Recovery School District (RSD) chose five (5) new construction / renovation projects as its first construction efforts after Hurricane Katrina. RSD recognizes the importance of green school design, and required local architectural firms to work with nationally well-known firms with this expertise. Innovative Design was brought in by HMS Architects, a respected local architectural firm. Innovative Design incorporated many sustainable features into the project while considering the community's needs and attachment to the 100-year old historic building. I was informed by HMS that Innovative Design has consistently been highly responsible and responsive.

From the day one, their emphasis was to work with me to fulfill our education program, while encouraging student and faculty performance through improved indoor air quality and day lighting. The RSD required building performance 30% more energy efficient than the energy code, and Innovative Design's energy efficiency strategies exceeded the requirement. RSD required a LEED Silver rating, and the Wilson School expects to be at the high end of LEED Gold level.

Innovative Design's expertise in achieving high energy efficiency within the budget was proven at the bidding. The bid came in at the same level as the other four (4) RSD schools while the LEED certification level and energy efficiency were the highest among the five (5) RSD schools. The project construction is now near completion. The community is very pleased with the final design and its sustainable features that our children and community will benefit from.

I would highly recommend Innovative Design for your project. They will listen to you, and provide a facility you will be proud of for generations to come.

Sincerely,

LaToya Cantrell, President

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