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**LANCASTER COUNTY HOUSING COALITION AND STEVENS COLLEGE TO AWARD
STUDENT DESIGNERS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS**

*Lancaster, PA...*A scholarship award ceremony will be held on “First Friday,” August 1, 2008 for the winners of the Lancaster County Housing Coalition’s Design Challenge. The event will take place at 5:00 pm at the offices of Architectural Concepts LLP, located at 48 North Christian Street.

Last fall the Lancaster County Housing Coalition announced their sponsorship of an Affordable Housing Design Scholarship Competition to be held in conjunction with Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. Jim Hamrick, Professor of Architecture at Stevens College and colleague Kimberly Jo Hitchcock developed an Architectural Design Studio specifically for the competition. Mary Kay Eckenrode, Director of Real Estate Lending at Community First Fund organized the competition.

Participants in the competition were Stevens students enrolled in the Architectural Technology Degree program. The premiere Design Studio class was focused primarily on affordable housing design. The winning submissions were judged based on criteria that included energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, accessibility for the physically challenged, and the cost to construct.

Three architects who are experts in the field of affordable housing design were recruited to work with Hamrick to frame the issues and the competition guidelines. The architects, Margaret Yu of Architectural Concepts LLP, Melanie Lefevre of LeFevre Funk Architects, Inc., and Gary Weaver of Tippetts/ Weaver Architects, Inc. also served as judges of the students’ work.

Margaret Yu said that the opportunity to develop and participate in the competition allowed her to think more comprehensively about affordable housing design and how to approach it from a student’s perspective.

The Coalition and the architects hope that the competition will spur a lasting relationship with Steven’s College, whose mission is to provide affordable education for those pursuing careers in Architectural Design and Construction.

The winning students will be in attendance at the First Friday Awards Reception to review and discuss their designs with the community. Members of the Housing Coalition will also be in attendance, including Stacie Reidenbaugh, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity; Stacie will be on the look-out for an innovative design that could be constructed by Habitat and sold to a Lancaster County family.

For more information on this event and to RSVP, please contact Mary Kay Eckenrode at 717-393-2351 or Margaret Yu at 717-390-8657.

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