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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GTC Builds a New Special Needs School Designed to Increase Student Success Rates

Golden Triangle Construction (GTC) recently finished building Plum Creek Academy in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. The school is a part of the Douglas County School District and its construction was funded by 2006 bond money.

Designed by Denver architecture firm *klipp*, the new academy serves seventh- through twelfth-graders with emotional problems and students with autistic spectrum conditions. The building can accommodate about 40 students total, including as many as 10 autistic students. Since its opening 16 years ago, the school has been operating out of a 55-year old elementary school, but this new building will better serve the special needs student body. Plum Creek's Principal, Dale Jenkins, is thrilled about the new building. Referring to the old building, Jenkins said, "We did our best to retrofit it for our students, but that is never as good as a building designed for students with special needs."

One of the distinctive things about the new school building is its layout, which features a blue wing for students with emotional disorders and a green wing especially for autistic students, as well as a lounge where students can earn the privilege to spend free time. The school features other design and construction elements for those children who are sensitive to light and sounds.

As far as lighting, the school is lit mainly with natural daylight and only the computer lab is lit by electricity. In the green wing, lights are buffered and the windows can be covered to easily dim the rooms if necessary. Also, all the classrooms are silent. Not just quiet, but absolutely void of sound. "All the mechanical units, the air conditioning and that sort of thing, are mounted over areas that are meant to be noisy," Principal Jenkins said. "These kids can't have additional noise and still concentrate." By being able to control sound and light, students' chances of success increase.

Golden Triangle Construction (GTC) has been a commercial general contractor in the Colorado Front Range construction market since 1977. For more information, please call Dennis Richard at (303) 772-4051 or email drrichard@gtc1.net.

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