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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GTC Begins Work on Another Energy-Efficient School in the Thompson School District

Golden Triangle Construction (GTC) was joined by school officials in the recent groundbreaking of Thompson School District's latest school project, Ponderosa Elementary in Loveland, Colorado. Ponderosa is the last of the 2005 bond projects for the District.

The new elementary school will be about 72,000 square feet and will educate 550 kindergarten through fifth grade students. Ponderosa's design by architectural firm Bennett, Wager and Grody is based on the prototypical design of the district's last new elementary school, Coyote Ridge, which GTC also built. Design modifications were made based on feedback from Coyote Ridge staff gathered at workshops last fall and to accommodate the larger student population at Ponderosa, but the focus on energy efficiency remained a top priority.

GTC, a proud member of the U.S. Green Building Council, is pleased to be partnering again with Thompson School District (TSD) on Ponderosa because the organizations share similar green goals. Several of GTC's LEED Accredited Professionals have helped the district make valuable sustainable building choices about their construction projects, and TSD has been able to see the educational and economic benefits of building "greener" schools. "We pay a little more upfront costs in terms of raw materials," Superintendent Ron Cabrera said. "It doesn't mean that long term."

Ponderosa, like Coyote Ridge, will be two stories, and having a more compact building helps reduce energy costs and requires less land. The school will make use of natural light to minimize the use of fluorescent lighting, which has been shown in recent studies to not only help save on energy, but also improve student performance. Structurally, the new school will feature a white roof to help reflect heat and will use thick insulation to help with climate control. Outside, much of the school's asphalt landscaping, including parking lots, driveways and playgrounds, is being built away from the building to reduce the amount of heat radiated to the school.

Ponderosa is expected to be complete by next summer so that community residents can begin attending the school in the fall of 2010.

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 drichard@gtc1.net.

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