



## **SOUTHWEST VERMONT CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER STUDENTS BUILD STATE-OF-THE-ART HOME**

### ***Local Teachers Occupy Energy Efficient Residence***

North Bennington, Vt. – Students from the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center teamed up with the nonprofit Building Trades Corporation, Blue Heron Construction and Efficiency Vermont to construct a house that serves as a model of energy efficiency both for the students who built it and for the residents who are thrilled to occupy it.

Laurie and John Camelio, two local educators with a combined 50 years of experience in the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, wanted a house that was more energy efficient and closer to town than the wood-stove-heated house (complemented by a Monitor heating system) in Sandgate they had occupied for 30 years.

“As teachers and members of the community, we like the idea of supporting the students at the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center,” said the Camelios.

Approximately two dozen vocational students worked on the Camelio’s new house, garnering incredible work experience in the process. According to Jim Gilbert of the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center’s Building Trades group, almost every student who participated in the construction program went on to a job in the industry.

The construction of the Camelio’s North Bennington home was made possible by the Building Trades Corporation, a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center that provides the vision and funding for the student-staffed building projects. Chairman Jim Goodine, who also is an owner of Blue Heron Construction, noted that local craftsmen – specialists in plumbing, electric, HVAC, etc. – on the Career Development Center committee led the team effort.

When Jay Walsh of Efficiency Vermont inspected the Camelio’s new home prior to the final touches completed by the residents, he noted how well it had been constructed.

“You would never know that this house had been built by students,” said Walsh. “The quality is good, from the tight building envelope to the ventilation to the appliances and lighting. This residence is very energy efficient.”

The house received a HERS (Home Energy Rating System) score of 58. The HERS scale starts at 100, with each one-point reduction corresponding to a one percent reduction in energy consumption. Thus, the Camelio’s home is roughly 42 percent more energy efficient than a standard home. Key energy efficiency features of the ENERGY STAR® -Rated house include:

- Foam insulation that acts as an air and sound barrier.
- High-performance windows and doors that contribute to the efficiency of the building.
- Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) that supplies fresh air while exhausting stale air. The system also recovers between 60-75 percent of the heat being exhausted and preheats the fresh air as it is brought into the home.
- ENERGY STAR-Rated products that can reduce energy typically consumed by up to 75 percent for lighting and 10 percent for appliances.

During their first winter in their new home, the Camelios were amazed at its energy performance. The house was comfortable because the heating level was always the same, which was not

possible in the Camelio's prior home that was heated by a wood stove. This year, the Camelios burned only one tank of fuel during the entire winter-heating season and they were more comfortable.

Building Trades Corporation chairman Jim Goodine is excited to have had the opportunity to work with the next generation of home builders in Vermont, noting that Efficiency Vermont was a great partner throughout the entire process.

"We've got students building state-of-the-art energy efficient homes," said Goodine. "To me, that's pretty incredible, and a great sign of things to come."

*Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy, and protect Vermont's environment. Efficiency Vermont is currently operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990 or visit [www.encyvermont.com](http://www.encyvermont.com).*

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