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ALLEN UNIVERSITY TO BENEFIT
FROM STATE-OF-THE-ART BUILDING MATERIAL
Hebel Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Used in Construction of Two Dorms

ATLANTA – November 12, 2008 – Today Xella Aircrete North America, the world leader in autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), announces the installation of its Hebel wall, floor and roof systems at two new dorms at Allen University in South Carolina. The school is among the first in the nation to use Xella's environmentally friendly building solution.

"Hebel is ideal for Allen University because of its durability and sustainability," said John Blackwelder – president, North American operations for Xella. "Our panels provide the new dorms with energy-efficiency and strength that other products are hard-pressed to match."

Building with AAC – a concrete and masonry product perfected in international markets over the past 60 years – enables contractors to replace traditional construction processes involving subfloors, pressure-treated wood, steel reinforcements, floor joists/beams, insulation and drywall, with just one easy-to-install, eco-friendly product. General contractor BE&K and Allen University are the latest to benefit from Hebel's innovative panels and blocks.

Hebel's wall, floor and roofing systems work together as an integrated system because they are precast and numbered to allow installers at the job site to easily fit the panels together. Due to the light weight of the panels – one-third the weight of normal concrete – it takes just two installers to set each panel as it is lifted into place with a small crane. More than 3,200 square feet of wall panels can be set in just one day with an eight person crew. The speed of installation enables the construction team to erect the dorms faster with less manpower, all with a product that has a high strength to weight ratio.

Hebel panels provide another benefit as well because the walls, floors and roofs will create a quiet environment due to the product's sound-deadening properties. The product is energy efficient, fire resistant and longer-lasting than other single-system building products, which may reduce Allen University's energy, insurance and maintenance costs over time.

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"The potential for energy savings, reduced insurance costs and durability were all factors that convinced us to use Hebel for the construction of our new residences," said Allen University President Dr. Charles E. Young. "It is a perfect fit for our forward-thinking university."

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About Xella Aircrete North America
Xella is the world-market leader in the autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) industry. With its North American headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., Xella provides state-of-the-art building material solutions for fast-track construction projects nationwide through energy-efficient, eco-friendly, easy-to-install building blocks and panels. Utilized throughout Europe for more than 60 years, Xella's Hebel brand have proven their worth in the international market for safe, innovative and sustainable building solutions.

About BE&K, Inc.
Birmingham, Ala.-based general contractor BE&K brings more than 35 years of construction experience to the Allen University dorms. The company is ranked among the top 50 national contractors, according to *Engineering News-Record*, and is one of the Southeast's largest employee-owned and privately held companies.

About Allen University
Allen University is a private, four-year liberal arts, coeducational, historically black college operated under the auspices of the African American Episcopal (AME) Church and founded in 1870. The University, accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is committed to providing students with higher education in a Christian atmosphere. Allen University is an academic community which provides students an opportunity to obtain a baccalaureate degree in eight academic areas: biology, business administration, chemistry, religion, English, mathematics, music and social science.