



## Connecting with Youth

### Background:

The Edith Green/Wendell Wyatt (EGWW) modernization project team in Portland, Oregon, engaged local middle and high school students in a unique outreach program that brought the massive construction project to life. Through the School-based Outreach Program, developed by **Lois D. Cohen Associates**, a **small, woman owned** Communications Company, in partnership with GSA, Howard S. Wright, and the EGWW Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Management Council area middle and high school students participated in interactive educational programs to learn about this historic green modernization project. These schools were selected based on their curricular focus.

Students experienced hands-on learning about universal/green design, construction, technology, and civic engagement. The program provided students a living curriculum and real world connections and learning from area professionals in fields such as architecture, construction, and government service.

### How the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Project Helped:

The students from Architecture, Construction & Engineering (ACE) Academy, a charter school for 11th and 12th graders interested in pursuing degrees in this field, learned about the Building Information Modeling used on the EGWW project. As part of their work, the ACE students built a 3 foot, to scale, model of the EGWW building. Seventh and eighth grade students from the Metropolitan Learning Center focused on the accessibility in design, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and how the EGWW Federal building will be made more accessible for all. Students from both schools have conducted a construction site visit to the EGWW federal building. In addition representatives from the project team have visited the schools for talks and some student shadowed project team members.

### The Results:

The students returned to the project in April and shared what they learned. A middle school student shared that she has a better understanding of the challenges individuals with disabilities have navigating buildings.



Model of EGWW built by Ace Academy Students and presented to project team.

She also mentioned she appreciated that the EGWW building is being reconstructed to meet those challenges and make it more accessible for all.

## FAST FACTS

**Project:** Renovate GSA's Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt federal building creating a high performance green building consistent with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) intention.

**Location:** Portland, Oregon

**Impacts:** Opportunity for local small businesses, workers, families, commuters, and students.

**Contract Value:** \$15,000

**Company:** Lois D. Cohen Associates  
(503)332-4869 lois@loiscohen.com

**Partners:** Howard S. Wright, SERA Architects