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**Phipps Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini Receives Steinbrenner Institute Award of Merit**  
*Carnegie Mellon University honors local green innovator as a part of its 10<sup>th</sup> annual environmental engineering, science and policy Media Fellowship.*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is pleased to announce that Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini has been presented with a 2012 Award of Merit from the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) [Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research](#). Established as part of the Institute's annual Media Fellowship for environmental journalists and editors, the award was presented during a special dinner program that was hosted at Phipps in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and included a tour of the new [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) (CSL).

Designed to provide national media members with opportunities to expand upon their knowledge of sustainability issues and to interact with leading environmental engineers, scientists and policy analysts, the Steinbrenner Institute has been cultivating impactful relationships between such professionals for 10 years, shining a spotlight on the work of CMU faculty and other regional experts. The ultimate goal of the program is to secure press coverage and promote innovations conceived in the City of Pittsburgh.

While showcasing local talent, this year's Fellowship also highlighted the many sustainable advancements spurred by Piacentini – who, since his tenure began in 1994, has taken the lead on [Phipps' green evolution](#), building the first LEED® certified visitor center in a public garden; the most energy-efficient tropical forest conservatory in the world; and the first LEED® for Existing Buildings Platinum certified production greenhouses. Phipps' latest accomplishment under his leadership is the CSL, a landmark facility that generates its own energy, and treats and reuses all water captured on site as Piacentini and his team strive to meet or exceed the highest green building and landscape standards.

"CMU has shown great interest in and support of the CSL since we broke ground, and I am really honored to have now received this Award of Merit from the prestigious Steinbrenner Institute," says Piacentini. "This Media Fellowship is so important because it not only draws national attention to the environmental problems we all face, but also raises awareness about the progressive solutions coming out of Pittsburgh that can help solve them. Designed and built by regional talent, the CSL is one of these local yet globally minded innovations, illuminating the many possibilities of green building and landscaping, and inspiring experts everywhere to push the envelope even further."

"On behalf of CMU, the Steinbrenner Institute is pleased to recognize the significant contributions that Phipps has made to advance the science and public knowledge of botanical environments and environmental sustainability for our region, for the nation and for the world," says Steinbrenner Institute Faculty Director David Dzombak. "We are most fortunate to have such a world-class, creative and progressive environmental institution as our neighbor. We also appreciate having such a good

neighbor, who has welcomed and assisted our community in many ways for many years, and who engaged us in a collaborative effort for the exciting CSL project.”

In addition to the Steinbrenner Institute Award of Merit, Piacentini is also the recipient of a number of other accolades for his work on environmental issues, including a recent Living Building Challenge Hero Award from the International Living Future Institute; a U.S. Green Building Council Award for Individual Leadership in the NGO Category; a Shades of Green Leadership Award from the Green Building Alliance; and a Carnegie Science Award. To learn more about Phipps’ sustainability initiatives, visit [PhippsCSL.org](http://PhippsCSL.org).

## **ABOUT PHIPPS**

Built by Henry W. Phipps in 1893 at the height of Pittsburgh’s industrial prowess, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens has evolved from the nation’s first teaching conservatory to a distinguished eco-champion among America’s 500 public gardens.

Phipps’ mission is to inspire and educate visitors with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and worldwide biodiversity through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse.

Phipps is open daily from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fridays until 10 p.m. Adults, \$12; Seniors 62 and older and students with valid ID, \$11; children 2-18, \$9; children under 2, free.

For more information, call 412/622-6914 or visit [hipps.conservatory.org](http://hipps.conservatory.org).

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