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**Preserving history on campus  
Schools recognized for 'going the extra step'**



A tree in full bloom can be seen in front of an older dormitory at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. WPI, Clark University and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences were recognized for their efforts to preserve the historical integrity of their campuses. (T&G Staff/CHRISTINE PETERSON)

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**WORCESTER** — Four colleges and a school in the city were recognized yesterday by state and local preservationists for their longtime efforts to maintain the unique historical natures of their campuses.

Clark University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences received 2011 Urban Design Awards from Preservation Worcester at the nonprofit's annual meeting.

Meanwhile, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, the MCPHS, along with the College of the Holy Cross and Worcester Academy, received Paul E. Tsongas Awards from Preservation Massachusetts “for embracing and incorporating preservation into their historical identities.”

Deborah Packard, Preservation Worcester’s executive director, said her organization lauded its awardees for “going the extra step” to preserve the historical integrity of their campuses.

She said they were also credited with incorporating green technology into their properties, providing landscapes that integrate the campuses into the neighborhoods in which they are located, and devising master plans that outline future growth.

Clark University was particularly recognized for revitalizing Main South and for its stewardship of the historic Woodland Street area while WPI received kudos for its participation in the Gateway Park project, which has resulted in new construction that preservationists said is compatible with the older structural landscape of Wheaton Square.

Meanwhile, the MCPHS was commended for its adaptive re-use of older downtown buildings and for making the inner-city more livable.

The citations were issued, just about two years after Preservation Worcester decided to canvass the properties owned by the colleges.

“There’s a lot of property that these schools own that the public is not aware of,” said Ms. Packard. “While we were conducting our study, we were impressed with how some schools work to preserve the history of their campuses.”

A 10-member committee recommended that the three schools be recognized.

Ms. Packard said it’s important that college officials keep their neighbors up to date on any future projects.

“Very often, college officials look at their expansion plans from just an internal viewpoint,” said Ms. Packard. “They don’t see what outsiders see. There’s no realization that their decisions spill over into the neighborhoods.”

Preservation Worcester officials, for example, said they are concerned about what plans the state might have for the expansion of the University of Massachusetts Medical School campus off Plantation Street. The school is expected to double its size, over the next 20 years.

Ms. Packard said that, to date, state officials haven’t done a good job in aesthetically melding that campus into the immediate area. She said the buildings, for example, starkly sit in the middle of parking lots and bland open spaces.

In Boston, the MCPHS, Worcester Academy, and Holy Cross were among 21 colleges, universities, and preparatory schools that received a Tsongas award, Preservation Massachusetts’ highest honor.

The prizes are named after the late Massachusetts senator.

“We are extremely excited to honor the work and dedication these educational institutions have made to their historic buildings, their communities, and their students,” said James Igoe, president of Preservation Massachusetts. “These projects are models for others within the state of Massachusetts and beyond.”

Holy Cross and the MCPHS were honored specifically for their commitment to the Worcester community. Worcester Academy was recognized for its efforts to preserve Kingsley Hall.

“We are pleased to be recognized for our work in creating contemporary buildings and renovating existing structures so they fit with the character and historic nature of our beautiful grounds, as well as with our commitment to environmental sustainability,” said Scott Merrill, Holy Cross’ director of physical plant. “Holy Cross’ own history is told, in part, by the buildings in which members of our community study, worship, reflect, and debate every day.”