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Professionals Support Human and Environmental Health

Executive Director Richard Piacentini earns WELL AP, promoting human and environmental well-being through action and research.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is proud to announce that Executive Director Richard Piacentini has achieved designation as a WELL Accredited Professional (WELL AP). This credential is offered through the [International WELL Building Institute](#) and signifies knowledge in human health and wellness in the built environment, as well as specialization in the WELL Building Standard. This standard creates guidelines for building development that are focused on the health of the people who are occupying it.

Candidates pursuing this accolade must pass the WELL AP exam, which was developed using the rigorous test development best practices of Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI) and is designed to test the competency of a candidate in performing the duties of a WELL AP. Leading practitioners in the fields of health, wellness and design in built environments lent their expertise in the exam's creation.

Richard Piacentini's achievement is yet another credential augmenting his professional integrity as a team leader of [Studio Phipps: Sustainable Design Group](#), a landscape design group that aims to inspire commercial clients to look at nature differently by considering ways to integrate the natural world into buildings and find feasible solutions to sustainability challenges. Drawing from the latest research in green infrastructure and Biophilia, Studio Phipps provides sustainable design consultation and education services, with emphasis on healthcare facilities, businesses, community groups and design firms in the Pittsburgh region.

With team leaders and staff attaining credentials such as LEED AP, certification in healthcare garden design and now WELL AP, Studio Phipps maximizes all available resources to find the most sustainable solutions for clients. Studio Phipps has had the honor of working with Magee-Women's Hospital of UPMC, UPMC East and Jefferson Medical Center among many other clients who are raising the bar of sustainability in the region.

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About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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