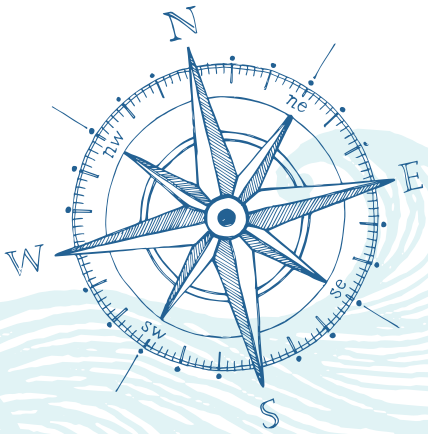
CSU The California State University

BUILDING COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES, CHARTING INNOVATIONS



2018 CSU FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

BPA WINNING CAMPUS:

California State University, Northridge

PROJECT NAME:

Extended University Commons

PROJECT COST:

$38,952,000

DELIVERY METHOD:

CM at Risk

SCHEDULE:

9/2014 – 10/2016

KEY CONTRIBUTORS:

Tseng College of Extended Learning

LPA Architects

Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction, Greg Kearns

P2S Engineering

BEST PRACTICE AWARD CATEGORY: ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING

Project Description

The overarching idea that inspired this specific solution was context; embracing the regional setting and celebrating but modernizing the CSUN campus' original mid-century modern architectural style. The building projects a sleek modern vibe that incorporates human scale with a ground-floor base of warm-colored campus brick, along with an interior courtyard, a covered forecourt, and an open plaza with seating and night lighting. The new facility takes advantage of the local climate with a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces formed by the building's courtyard design, creating biophilic design elements of breezes, shade, and shadow where students, faculty and staff can gather. An outdoor social space not only accommodates breakout areas for classrooms, but also encourages students, faculty, and staff to meet informally, lounge, and study to enhance the culture of collaboration deeply valued by the institution. The design has a "loose fit" approach with fixed building support systems in an interior core, allowing for easy future reconfiguration of office and classroom spaces as programs, pedagogy and workflow evolve. The first floor is a key social space that serves as the building lobby and exhibit space, celebrating the College's uniqueness and providing a venue for large gatherings and events. The second and third floors of the administrative offices are planned around a blended workspace concept with private offices, semi-private work areas, conference rooms, and open office areas with individual and group spaces. The Extended University Commons provides students with advanced technology and connects them to technology-enhanced, active-learning experiences. The innovative TEAL (Technology-Enhanced Active Learning) classroom features the latest technology, such as the new "we-inspire system", that allows students and other users (such as faculty groups and conference attendees) to collaborate and show their work on the room's whiteboard from their own workstations.

Key Challenges

1. Providing technology-enhanced, active-learning spaces.
2. Biophilic design.
3. "Loose fit" approach.

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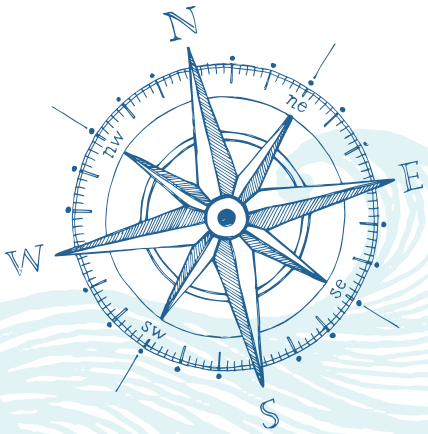

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What makes this project a Best Practice Award Winner?

1. **Innovative:** The innovation developed throughout the project provides students with advanced technology and connects them to technology-enhanced, active-learning experiences. The Tseng College of Extended Learning has expanded opportunities to extend its reach to every CSUN student, whether on-campus or distance learning.

2. **Cost Savings:** Ground floor classrooms, a three story sky-lit central space, and outdoor patio serving as both classroom breakout space and casual seating support the university while also creating opportunities to host a variety of conferences in collaboration with LA-based businesses for economic development in the local city-region. Additionally, the project used integrated design in their development of the construction documents to assist with cost savings in the fees for the project and allowed efficiencies to be developed in building systems such as the structural system.

3. **Process Improvement:** The College can expand opportunities to extend its reach to provide every CSUN student, whether the student is on campus or a distance-learning student, to participate and give lectures remotely.

4. **Replicated on Other Campuses:** The design has a "loose fit" approach with fixed building support systems in an interior core, allowing for easy future reconfiguration of office and classroom spaces as programs, pedagogy and workflow evolve.

5. **Contribution to Success of the Campus:** Learning happens everywhere, and is most impactful when active learning and collaboration is supported through formal and informal environments, flexibility, relevant technology, and choice.