

Learning Spaces Collaboratory Roundtable
Spring 2016: Focusing on the Future of Planning Learning Spaces
 Boston University

Driving Questions

1. How do we blur the lines between classroom learning and research activities?
2. How can we bring attention to our project teams and highlight the opportunities for collaborative activities with industry, government, and academic colleagues across the country?
3. How do we highlight the collaborative nature of modern science and support the curiosity-driven impulses of true scientific inquiry in a new space?
4. What types of spaces will encourage experimentation with pedagogy and student engagement? We don't pretend to know how learning research will change the nature of STEM instruction in the future, but we want to be positioned to take advantage of emerging best practices without further renovation.
5. How do we support unstructured learning and "pop-up" learning communities in our new space?
6. How can first-year students be introduced to communities of practice?
7. How can we establish opportunities for more informal whiteboard moments between students and faculty outside of the classroom? That is, how do we make visible and present the creative origins of science?
8. How do we bring our technical entrepreneurship program into closer communication with our project teams?

The Straz Center represents a new center for undergraduate learning within the Natural Sciences at Carthage College. The existing David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences has been renovated and expanded to create a new architectural identity for the Natural Sciences. The project provides modern classrooms, teaching labs, undergraduate research spaces and collaborative learning environments. Collaborative spaces, common learning lounges, conference rooms and offices are oriented to take advantage of natural light and lake views. A new planetarium features and is architecturally expressed along the west façade to create a new "street address" for the Natural Sciences along Campus Drive. The Straz Center Modernization + Expansion project renovated 42,179 net square feet of space and constructed an additional 28,119 net square feet of new building. Overall, the project includes 102,855 gross square feet of building area. Construction of the project was phased according a schedule determined by the College.

The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences is functionally the south end of a larger complex of connected structures including the Clausen Center for World business and the existing Theater directly to the north. The new addition to the existing facility and renovation work within the existing David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences is limited to the north by the existing south wall of the Theater. No new work is to be performed north of this existing dividing wall. The site for the Straz Center Modernization Project is bounded on the west by Campus Drive, to the east by the shore line of Lake Michigan and to the south by existing Lentz Hall.

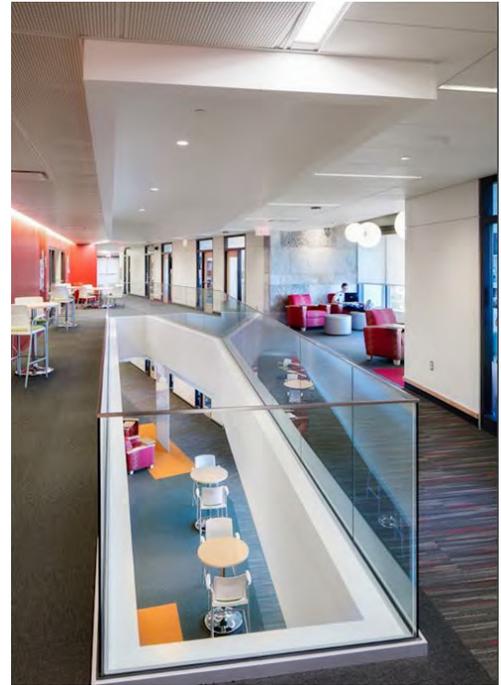
"The future of undergraduate science education is being created right here and right now at Carthage."

— President Gregory Woodward
 Carthage College





The new science center increased classroom and lab space by 40%



Interactive zones help teaching continue outside of the classroom and provide space to collaborate any time of day or night.



A stepped seating area with advanced media capabilities.



A two-story, glass-enclosed atrium for exhibits, public gatherings, student poster presentations, and planetarium shows.



Science on display



Research, Innovation



Collaborative learning areas for informal discussions, continued learning, and project work.



An outdoor classroom overlooking Lake Michigan with natural stone seating.



Interdisciplinary laboratories for research in materials science, nanotechnology, engineering design, molecular biology, and atomic microscopy.



Interactive space to work with students on research projects and homework assignments outside of class.



Teaching lab



Anatomy lab

