# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY Center for the Sciences

**Building Architect:** Hastings & Chivetta  
**Lab Consultant:** Research Facilities Design  
**Building Area:** 57,426 Gross SF  
**Net Area:** 32,285 Net SF  
**Construction Cost:** $21.6 million  
**Completion Year:** 2017

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| • Program/pedagogy drives space needs - highlight importance of STEM at Valpo.  
• High quality faculty / student research space to improve research outcomes.  
• Facility design should aid recruitment and retention of faculty and students.  
• Building location & design to promote synergy with the College of Engineering.  
• Embrace modern AV & IT technologies.  
• Incorporate smart sustainable practices.  
• Promote efficiency of space utilization through appropriate sharing.  
• Provide ample spaces for student study and collaboration throughout building.  
• Create an open, transparent design to encourage connections, activate the building, and promote interdisciplinary interactions / collaborations. | • Inclusive, iterative, consensus-building process with active participation by science faculty, staff, administrators, students, development office, and other non-science constituents on campus throughout the planning, programming and design phases of the project. | • Planning process reinforced that broad based input from all stakeholders on campus is essential. In particular, vocal faculty proved to be critical in enhancing the original project budget to create a facility with ‘critical mass’ to form a viable STEM community. | • Pedagogical initiatives had a positive impact on the program & facility design.  
• Modern faculty / student research lab space has greatly enhanced undergraduate research opportunities.  
• The new facility has spiked interest in STEM programs among student recruits.  
• Building is located adjacent to College of Engineering. Planned future phase may physically connect to Engineering.  
• AV / IT technologies were successfully utilized throughout the building.  
• Facility features some shared teaching labs, research labs, and support spaces to create efficient utilization.  
• Open study spaces & interior windows create a welcoming environment and promote a true STEM community. |

**Welcoming façade with visual connection to campus community**  
**Collaboration spaces with daylight and scientific-inspired artwork**  
**Inclusive learning environment in which students ‘learn by doing’**  
**‘Hands on’ collaborative learning in Organic Chemistry Laboratory**  
**Interdisciplinary Student / Faculty Research Suite with flex benching**  
**Workroom in Research Suite for data analysis and collaboration**

**TAKE-AWAY RECOMMENDATIONS:**  
• Encourage input from a broad base of stakeholders on campus in an iterative, participatory, consensus-building process for optimal satisfaction / results.  
• Ensure that your academic planning process precedes any facility programming and design decisions. Allow the time it takes to ‘get it right’.  
• Learn from others through facility tours with your planning team. There are lots of great examples and it is a good ‘team-building’ experience.