



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

VISION/GOALS:

- 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.

PROCESS: 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.



Welcoming façade with visual connection to campus community

LESSONS LEARNED: 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.



Collaboration spaces with daylight and scientific-inspired artwork

OUTCOMES:

- 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.



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.