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MAINTENANCE AND FLOORING

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COLUMNS



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SPOTLIGHT / ON OUR COVER

Advances in Training Counselors at Goldey-Beacom College

Erin-Lee Kelly, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Goldey-Beacom College, is an innovative educator who brings strengths she has honed in her clinical practice, along with insights from her doctoral program and research, to help re-imagine the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at Goldey-Beacom. Kelly specializes in working with issues relating to sexuality in clinical settings. Since sexuality relates to an immense swath of human experiences—among them, identity, health, healthcare, relationships, and culture—Kelly emphasizes the need for preparing clinicians to discuss and work with clients who are grappling with challenges in any of these areas.

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Editor's Letter

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Readers,

As I sit down to pen this publisher's letter for our private higher education magazine, I can't help but be overwhelmed by the sheer beauty of fall that surrounds us. The leaves have transitioned from their vibrant greens to a mesmerizing palette of reds, oranges, and yellows, painting a breathtaking landscape that seems straight out of a postcard. And it's in this season of change and transformation that I find myself reflecting on the transformative power of education.

One of the aspects that truly sets private higher education institutions apart is their commitment to providing world-class facilities for students. Fall on campus takes on a whole new meaning when you walk down the meticulously maintained pathways, surrounded by these architectural wonders. It's a time when the marriage of nature's beauty and human craftsmanship is at its peak. The facilities offered by these institutions are not just buildings; they are spaces that inspire, challenge, and nurture the dreams and aspirations of thousands of students. Imagine strolling down a tree-lined avenue, the sound of crunching leaves beneath your feet, and coming across a state-of-the-art science laboratory or a library that feels like it belongs in the pages of a classic novel. The juxtaposition of fall's warmth and the cool interiors of these buildings is nothing short of magical.

For those of you who have had the privilege of visiting private higher education campuses during the fall, you know the thrill of it. It's a season of fresh beginnings, and there's a palpable sense of excitement in the air. The students, eager to learn, are busy charting their academic journeys, and the campus facilities are their playgrounds for exploration and discovery.

From cutting-edge research centers to world-class sports arenas, private institutions leave no stone unturned in providing their students with the very best. It's in these buildings that future leaders are shaped, groundbreaking research is conducted, and lifelong friendships are forged. The fall colors serve as a reminder that just as the leaves transform and adapt to the changing seasons, so do the students who walk these hallowed halls.

As the publisher of this magazine, I have had the privilege of visiting many of these campuses, and each time I am awestruck by the dedication and vision that goes into creating these educational spaces. It's not just about bricks and mortar; it's about fostering an environment that encourages intellectual growth and personal development.

So, as you flip through the pages of this magazine and immerse yourself in the stories of these remarkable facilities, I hope you can capture a small piece of the magic that is fall on a private higher education campus. It's a season of transformation, and it's a reminder that education, like nature, has the power to inspire, evolve, and leave a lasting impression.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season filled with inspiration and the thrill of walking across these remarkable campuses.

Warm regards especially on the cool fall mornings,

Ed Bauer Publisher



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Advances in Training Counselors at Goldey-Beacom College

BY CYNTHIA MWENJA, PhD

Erin-Lee Kelly, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Goldey-Beacom College, is an innovative educator who brings strengths she has honed in her clinical practice, along with insights from her doctoral program and research, to help re-imagine the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at Goldey-Beacom. Kelly specializes in working with issues relating to sexuality in clinical settings. Since sexuality relates to an immense swath of human experiences—among them, identity, health, healthcare, relationships, and culture—Kelly emphasizes the need for preparing clinicians to discuss and work with clients who are grappling with challenges in any of these areas.

When Kelly finished her own Master of Art in Clinical Counseling at Eastern University, she says she had gotten a great education for clinical psychology work, but that she had received no training at all in working with patients in the realm of sexuality. This lack of training meant that she felt ill-prepared to work with people who had experienced sexual abuse and assault, but she also felt ill-equipped to support people who were experiencing any sort of sexual dysfunction, who struggled with their level of sexual desire, or who were grappling with any issues related to their LGBTQ+ identities. What's more, Kelly observes, is that several of her colleagues also had received no training in these areas. When Widener University began its graduate Sexuality Education program—one of the first accredited programs of its kind—Kelly returned to school, earning both masters and doctoral degrees in Human Sexuality from Widener University.

Kelly's dissertation studies clinicians who were in a similar position to hers, having received no training in working with their clients in matters of sexuality. The study examined how these clinicians handled the counseling needs that their clients had in

relation to sexuality. Because this work is so vital for human beings, Kelly now promotes education in human sexuality at all levels. At the Walden School, a Montessori school in Media, Pennsylvania, Kelly teaches sexual health education for fifth through eighth graders, and she also works with the students' parents, teaching them how to talk with their kids about these concepts. In the future, Kelly hopes to write books about how to have conversations around these sensitive topics, starting at home and communicating early.

In her private and group practices, Kelly primarily works with sex offenders, both in working to prevent offenses before they occur as well as providing clinical care after an offense. She began working with this population during an internship at a sex offender therapy practice that had the goal of creating a safer society by working with this population. She noticed that no one was asking about sexuality in the group sessions, so she volunteered to create a healthy sexuality module, and the owner agreed. Once she developed the module, she presented it at an American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and

Therapists (AASECT) conference, teaching fellow practitioners how to look at healthy sexuality for offenders instead of trying to simply shut off their sexuality entirely. She points out that offenders are also sexual beings, as are most humans, and they need this guidance. This work has helped reduce the toxic shame that most offenders feel, as well as helping them manage their urges. She teaches them that it's ok to have healthy and consensual fantasies and gives them permission to embrace their sexuality in ways that are safe for themselves and others.

Innovative Educator

Kelly, who had been an adjunct instructor for over a decade before accepting her current full-time position, appreciates the dynamic between the graduate counseling program and her private practice because she can apply different skill sets in each setting. She has added human sexuality courses to round out Goldey-Beacom's approach of training counselors to have a holistic view of each of their clients. Kelly notes that many in our society are taught not to discuss sex, politics, and religion. Counselors, however, need to know how to talk about all three subjects

with kindness and compassion—and without attempting to change their clients' worldviews. Additionally, Kelly says that her private practice experience enriches her classroom instruction; she can discuss approaches to dealing with issues such as sexual impulsivity, sex offending, and child pornography use.

Giselle Borja, Goldey-Beacom graduate and pre-licensed therapist, states that Kelly's classes were "very different." As a psych major, she says, her previous classes had been "theory based with no interactive part." The professors might present a scenario and ask students what they would do; everyone had a chance to talk through their ideas in an abstract way. By contrast, Borja notes, Kelly's classes involve both theory and actual application of the ideas. For example, in "Theory and Practice of Group Therapy," Kelly lectured for part of the class period; the remainder of the time was dedicated to having students participate in group therapy sessions. Kelly helped each group set boundaries and goals, and a different





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class member rotated into the role of group leader each week, guided by that week's course readings. The students also wrote a weekly short paper to debrief the sessions, and Kelly gave feedback on these reflections.

Borja observes that the experience let students see what group work is like; they wouldn't just discuss their answers to "What would you do in this situation?"—they actually lived the answers. If they made a mistake, Kelly jumped in with suggestions to guide them. When Borjas and a classmate were interning at a psychiatric center, they felt confident in their abilities to start and lead a group because they had already practiced those skills in Kelly's class.

Borjas says that Kelly's class on theory and application of individual therapy had a similar structure. Students were paired up, and each got to be in the position of therapist for half the term and client for the other half. Borjas felt uncomfortable sharing at first, and Kelly noticed. Kelly pulled Borjas aside, listened

to what she had been going through, and encouraged her. She also reminded Borjas that the time was dedicated to her and emphasized the importance of confidentiality in the space. Once Borjas began to engage in the therapeutic work, she realized that "it was a nice outlet to have." She is still very appreciative of Kelly's willingness to reach out personally. Kelly even gave Borjas the opportunity to lead group therapy in a subsequent class, mentoring her by identifying her strengths and giving her an opportunity to practice.

Kelly's classes were "more challenging and required a lot more work" for both students and professor, Borjas notes. Now that she's starting her career, however, she realizes how beneficial those experiences really were. Kelly also explained a lot of practical details to her students, such as how private practice works and how to work with the government. As Borjas puts it, "She wanted everyone to know everything they need to know to be as successful as possible."

Program Visionary

Along with her colleagues in the department, Kelly has been working to refine the graduate program offerings. One area of refinement is in addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion concerns. The goal is for faculty members to embrace all areas of diversity within their curricula. Toni Warner (LCSW, MSW, MED), best-selling author and founder of Authentically Me Psychotherapy, points to Kelly's strengths for education and program design, saying that she thinks carefully about how to provide this vital education, meeting the needs of the students in ways that are "highly effective for individuals and systems, micro and macro." Warner says that Kelly can offer the program "innovation from a holistic perspective." She notes that it can be easy for policies and procedures to become restricted by administrative red tape, but "Erin can bring a fresh, whole way of being and systematic perspective to the table."



At Goldey-Beacom, Kelly also hopes to re-kindle the study abroad program. Colleague Gerard Hoefling, also Assistant Professor of Psychology, focuses on genocide, and the two hope to take students to look at genocide through the lens of sexuality at the Warsaw International Studies in Psychology (WISP) program based at the University of Warsaw. The work, which is truly interdisciplinary, can include many areas of inquiry—experiences of LGBTQ+ people under the Nazi regime, women's roles at home as well as in the ghettos and during internment, and expectations for childbirth and child rearing, to name a few. Because DNA is changed from trauma, Kelly is particularly interested in the generational effects of these experiences on descendants.

Joel Worden, Goldey-Beacom Provost, remarks on Kelly's passion for her work, noting her important role in the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program. He states that the college has made "real, strategic choices because of her contributions and her understanding of the students and their needs." In a time when many schools are moving to online, asynchronous models, Goldey-Beacom is moving in the opposite direction. Kelly and Hoefling point out that "So much of the training of good counselors rests on interacting in person," Worden says. As a result, GBC has moved to having all in-person classes in the counseling master's program in order to "build a quality program and deliver" for their students—and their clients. He notes that this model will "deliver at a level you can't quite do virtually." Worden adds that Kelly and Hoefling have developed an onboarding program for entering students, and they're using a cohort model to enable students to connect both with the faculty and with each other. He is confident that with these innovations and approaches, the program "will make an important impact on students."

continued...

The classes taught by Erin-Lee Kelly, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Goldey-Beacom College, involve both theory and actual application of the ideas. For example, in "Theory and Practice of Group Therapy," Kelly lectured for part of the class period; the remainder of the time was dedicated to having students participate in group therapy sessions. Kelly helped each group set boundaries and goals.





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Valued Colleague and Counselor

Kelly's strengths are apparent in every area, including her relationships with colleagues and clients. Kelly and Warner became both friends and colleagues after meeting in their doctoral program. On a personal level, they "cheer each other on," Warner says; they also consult with each other professionally. Warner observes that their different approaches to clinical work mean that they can give each other fresh insights. She adds that Kelly is "great to bounce ideas off" because "she only operates with integrity." She continues by noting that having "a colleague who has that is very special."

A previous client of Kelly's—for whom this article uses the alias Alan Blake—sought counseling with Kelly about six years ago because of an experience in his younger years that he was still grappling with. He was feeling a lot of self-doubt and anxiety about his capabilities. He describes himself as "high

achieving, driven, and overly analytical," and he says that these qualities caused him to worry excessively about what others thought of him. Before working with Erin Kelly, he had been an educator for twenty years, and he observes that his work with her has allowed him to rise into a leadership position. He commends Kelly's "uncanny ability to develop the trust of the patient" and says that their work together was "transformational" for him. Everything about his life has improved, he notes: his relationships with his wife and others and his ability to move into a more challenging leadership role. "From my perspective," Blake states, "Erin is a miracle worker." He appreciates the fact that he has been able to positively impact more people because of his work with her. He recognizes how much anxiety hinders many people, and counselors like Kelly can help their clients work through decades of habit to "unleash potential that may never have been realized" otherwise.

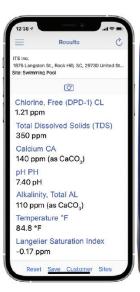
While many people can be uncomfortable when hearing the word "sexuality," it is clear that these issues permeate our lives in ways big and small. In addition to matters of sexuality itself, these ideas relate to our sexual orientations and gender identities, friendships and romantic relationships, health care needs throughout life, and our perceptions of ourselves within our societies and cultures. In addition to providing a model in her own private practice, Kelly is working to make sure that people who need counseling in any of these arenas will have counselors who are prepared to help them work through their challenges-with kindness, compassion, and integrity.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Cynthia Mwenja teaches Composition and Rhetoric at the

University of Montevallo.

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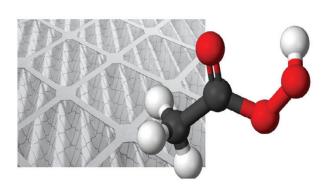




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A Comprehensive Guide to Choosing the Right Flooring

FOR PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES

BY ED BAUER

In the world of private higher education, creating an environment that fosters learning, productivity, and comfort is essential. One sometimes overlooked yet crucial aspect of this environment is the choice of flooring. The flooring in your institution plays a significant role in enhancing the overall ambiance, safety, and functionality of the space. To help you make informed decisions about flooring, we put together this comprehensive guide to what private higher education facilities should look for in flooring choices along with directions to valuable resources for further guidance.

Before your next building renovation, consider these seven flooring factors you'll want to consider.

1. Durability and Longevity

When it comes to choosing flooring for private higher education facilities, durability should be a top priority. These institutions experience high foot traffic on a daily basis, sure to wear down less-robust flooring materials. To ensure your investment stands the test of time, consider options like luxury vinyl tile (LVT), known for its durability and available in a wide range of designs and colors. It's resistant to stains, scratches, and moisture, making it a popular choice for educational spaces. Porcelain tiles are also incredibly durable and can withstand heavy foot traffic. They are also easy to clean and maintain. Finally, consider rubber flooring, which is not only durable but also provides excellent slip resistance. It absorbs impact and noise, making it ideal for classrooms and common areas.





For more in-depth information on the durability of various flooring options, the National Floor Safety Institute is a valuable resource.

2. Maintenance and Cleanliness

Keeping a private higher education facility clean is essential for the health and well-being of students and staff. To ensure easy maintenance and cleanliness of your flooring, consider hardwood, laminate, and vinyl flooring for easy care. Also be mindful of your flooring's stain resistance. High-traffic areas are invariably high-spill areas, so carpet, while comfortable, is less practical for common areas.

In educational settings where hygiene is critical, consider flooring materials with anti-microbial properties to inhibit the growth of bacteria and allergens.

The Carpet and Rug Institute offers resources and guidelines on carpet maintenance, while the National Floor Safety Institute provides information on slip-resistant flooring.

3. Safety and Accessibility

Creating a safe and accessible environment is paramount in educational institutions. Flooring choices can significantly impact safety, so consider factors like slip resistance, especially in areas prone to spills or moisture. Many manufacturers provide slip resistance ratings for their products. You'll also want to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. These include specifications for flooring surfaces to ensure wheelchair accessibility and prevent tripping hazards.

Finally, you'll want to choose flooring materials that provide proper ergonomic support for students and staff, reducing the risk of fatigue and injuries.

For comprehensive information on ADA compliance, refer to the U.S. Department of Justice ADA Standards.

4. Aesthetics and Brand Image

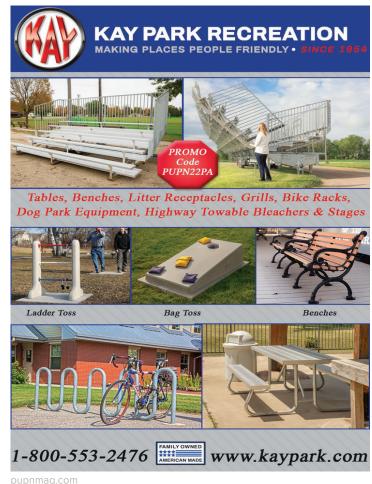
The appearance of your facility plays a significant role in creating a positive first impression and reinforcing your brand image. When considering aesthetics, the flooring often sets the tone, so be sure to consider color and design—often selected to align with your institution's color scheme and design preferences. This can contribute to a cohesive and appealing interior. Some manufacturers will make your flooring into a branding opportunity with custom carpet tiles and other flooring that incorporates your institution's logo or branding elements into the design.

To explore a wide range of flooring design options, visit Shaw Contract for inspiration and guidance.

5. Budget Considerations

Budget constraints are often a reality for private higher education facilities. While it's essential to prioritize quality, consider options that strike a balance between durability,

continued...





aesthetics, and cost-effectiveness. Engage with reputable flooring suppliers who can offer solutions that fit your budget without compromising on quality.

For information on budgeting and cost considerations, consult the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), which provides resources for financial planning in higher education.

6. Environmental Sustainability

In today's environmentally conscious world, sustainable flooring options are gaining popularity. Consider flooring materials that are eco-friendly and contribute to your institution's sustainability goals. Some flooring materials incorporate recycled content, reducing the demand for new resources and waste. You can also choose flooring with low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions to improve indoor air quality and create a healthier learning environment. You can also

look for flooring products with certifications such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) to ensure they meet rigorous sustainability standards.

For more information on sustainable flooring options and certifications, visit the U.S. Green Building Council.

7. Installation and Maintenance Support

Select a flooring supplier or contractor that offers comprehensive installation and maintenance support. Proper installation is critical to the performance and longevity of your flooring. Additionally, ongoing maintenance is essential to ensure your investment lasts for years to come. Work with professionals who understand the unique needs of educational spaces and can provide guidance throughout the process.

For assistance in finding experienced flooring professionals, you can consult the Flooring Contractors Association.

Choosing the right flooring for private higher education facilities is a multifaceted decision that requires careful consideration of durability, maintenance, safety, aesthetics, budget, sustainability, and expert support. By addressing these key factors and utilizing the resources provided, you can make informed choices that enhance the overall quality of your institution's learning environment. Investing in the right flooring not only improves the functionality of your spaces but also contributes to the well-being and success of your students and staff.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. In his early career years, he worked on the staff at Mount Union College and for the last twelve years as publisher and managing partner at Flaherty Media has been privileged to tour many private higher education campuses and talk with numerous staff members who manage these multiple building facilities. He can be reached at ed@pupnmag.com.

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CHAT WITH AN EXPERT

Developing a Fleet Strategy: NINE MISTAKES TO AVOID

BY KEVIN ROSA

Private colleges and universities are being challenged to control costs across the board. But what about your fleet of campus vehicles?







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One way facilities maintenance departments are saving money is by replacing ineffective departmental or piecemeal purchasing with comprehensive fleet planning. Yet many colleges struggle with this issue, with various departments wondering who should take ownership of the process.

1. Avoid Costly Mistakes. The following tips enable you to plan an effective fleet, help preempt many fleet management problems and prevent the costly mistake of purchasing vehicles based on cost alone.

Don't fly solo. Many facilities' maintenance teams lack the expertise needed to develop a comprehensive fleet strategy. Partnering with a vehicle manufacturer with trained transportation experts solves that problem. Look for professionals who have worked on many campuses and will coordinate fleet planning among your motor pool, department heads and management. Don't assume that all sales professionals have this knowledge and

experience. Some manufacturers invest much more in training their sales force and maintain a more experienced staff than others.

To start the ball rolling, form a team composed of your transportation expert and internal personnel, then go through the following steps: (1) Discuss any problems regarding safety, sustainability, liability or other issues; (2) Decide whether you'll need on-road or off-road vehicles or a mix of both; (3) Ask your transportation expert to identify "target opportunities" to reduce fleet costs and replace full-size vehicles with utility vehicles (UTVs); (4) Ask about any applicable tax credits in your area; (5) Establish minimum safety requirements for every vehicle in your fleet. Then ask your transportation partner to audit your existing fleet—department by department and vehicle by vehicle.

A knowledgeable professional digs deep during the audit process, working through each department to identify the work it does, the number of crew members and vehicles, the type and age of current vehicles, where the vehicles are driven and average daily mileage, and the maximum payload needed.

They also will determine any additional safety features needed for the task, who will maintain the vehicle, accessories that can boost productivity, and any specific problems they are facing. Using the information gathered during the audit, he or she will help you create a comprehensive fleet strategy.

2. Don't create chaos. Using vehicles made by multiple manufacturers complicates parts, maintenance schedules, charging and more. Working with a single vendor is a smarter way to go for many reasons. It reduces parts inventory and improves safety and compliance, while decreasing training time. It standardizes warranty issues and regulates preventive maintenance, giving you a single point of contact. Finally, it unifies charging and helps stabilize your monthly fleet budget.

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3. Don't play around. Many manufacturers sell vehicles designed for recreational use as work vehicles. They can't take the abuse of demanding users. Look for utility vehicles designed and built to do the work of pickup trucks. True work utility vehicles generally have aluminum frames that withstand

water, chemicals and salt without rusting. Additionally, their suspension systems are engineered to carry heavy loads. Recreational vehicles, on the other hand, generally have steel frames that rust and suspension systems designed for speed, not carrying loads. They're fun on the weekends, but not right for work.

4. Don't undervalue accessories and job-specific vehicles. Find a manufacturer with a large portfolio of commercial-grade accessories. Tool boxes, van boxes with replaceable panels, dual ladder racks, dump kits, stake sides, integrated cabs that help prevent heat-related accidents and other accessories can solve problems, reduce your liability and cut labor costs. Many vendors offer multiple recreational accessories, but few commercial ones. Further, your crews can waste time and money with standard utility vehicles that have no task-speeding options. And makeshift accessories can be ineffective and increase your liability. Fortunately, some manufacturers offer job-specific vehicles equipped with packages of accessories that speed certain applications such as facilities maintenance, grounds maintenance, security,

5. Don't sacrifice power to reduce your carbon footprint. Sustainability is an important issue on campuses. But the power, ease of use, and reliability of electric vehicles vary considerably by manufacturer. The most important considerations are the battery pack, controller and charger.

trash removal and other tasks. Ask your

vendor about this.

First, look for vehicles with 48-volt battery packs and 500-amp controllers, the most powerful among the standard offerings. Many electric utility vehicles have 350- or 400-amp controllers. They don't carry or tow as much weight as those with more powerful controllers. For example, a mid-sized vehicle manufactured by a major brand with a 400-amp controller and a 48-volt battery pack has a bed load and towing capacity of just 600 lbs. (272 kg) each. A comparable vehicle with a 48-volt battery pack but a 500-amp controller delivers a bed load capacity of 800 lbs. (362.8 kg), 200 pounds more than the vehicle above. Its towing capacity is 1,500 lbs. (680.3 kg), two and a half times as much as the other vehicle. Secondly, look for electric vehicles with smart on-board chargers with reel retractors. The chargers issue alerts to prevent common user errors, and the reel retractors let your crews charge at any 110-volt outlet.

6. Don't forget to put safety first.

The well being of your campus family is your primary concern. What's more, one serious accident can cost your organization



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thousands—even hundreds of thousands of dollars. Comprehensive fleet planning sharpens the focus on safety. It lets you decide what safety features you want on your entire fleet during the planning stages, then add additional features as needed for the job.

7. Smart purchasing may also improve safety. Some utility vehicles have maximum speeds of 50+ miles per hour. That's an accident waiting to happen. Further, high speeds generally indicate that vehicles were designed for recreational use. Look for vehicles with safer maximum speeds of less than 25 mph.

8. Examine the braking system. Some makes of vehicles experience high rates of brake failure, another serious liability. Vehicles with redundancy built into their braking systems help prevent this. Be sure your electric vehicles offer controlled downhill ability plus zero-speed detect to prevent roll away. Without this, vehicles may freewheel in descent.

9. Don't buy before you consider leasing. Many commercial customers now lease their fleets. This lets them get new cars every three to four years, keep their vehicles under warranty much of the time and reduce their maintenance costs and downtime. They also enjoy the latest upgrades, stabilize their monthly fleet budgets and sell their used fleets back to the supplier at high residuals.

Colleges and universities, on the other hand, have been slow to adopt leasing, largely because of their budgetary structures. However, many private universities can take advantage of Tax-exempt Municipal Leases, a special type of lease agreement designed for government agencies and non-profits. This may be an option if you want to acquire new equipment, preserve your capital and take advantage of your tax-exempt status. Discuss this issue with your accounting team and vendor.

Final Thoughts

Beware of vague or incomplete warranty language. A long, strong warranty can save you thousands on one vehicle alone, and it demonstrates the confidence a manufacturer has in its vehicles. Don't just check the battery warranty on electric vehicles. Check the warranty on the controller and charger as well. Some manufacturers cover

these components for twice as long as others. Finally, work with a vendor who partners with a government purchasing cooperative such as U.S. Communities. This fast-tracks purchasing and guarantees best pricing, yet eliminates the tedious request-for-proposal process.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Kevin Rosa is a regional manager with Club Car. With 17 years of experience, Kevin understands the utility vehicle universe, the campus environment and the fine points of fleet planning. To learn more about fleet strategy, you can visit www.clubcar.com/us/en/commercial.html.



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Elevating Higher Education:

THE ROLE OF EXTERIOR LANDSCAPING AT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

BY ED BAUER

In the competitive world of private higher education, institutions are constantly seeking ways to distinguish themselves and attract prospective students. One of the best ways to capture their attention is through well-thought-out and carefully maintained exterior landscaping. While the most beautiful campuses make the landscaping look timeless, there are also new trends—especially around incorporating more eco-friendly and sustainable landscaping—to reflect the values important to students today.

Love at First Sight

Imagine a prospective student arriving on your campus for the first time. The sight of well-maintained, lush green lawns, vibrant flowerbeds, and inviting outdoor spaces can make a profound impression. A well-maintained campus reflects an institution's dedication to quality, attention to detail, and overall excellence.

In fact, the visual appeal of a campus can be a decisive factor for prospective students. Beautifully designed landscapes create an appealing backdrop for campus tours and promotional materials, making your institution stand out. Students, faculty, and alumni are more likely to feel a sense of pride and belonging when surrounded by aesthetically pleasing outdoor spaces, which also encourage socializing and community building. In no time, new students will have staked out their favorite outdoor hangouts, spots they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

Embracing Green Alternatives

Incorporating eco-friendly and sustainable landscaping practices is not just a trend but a responsible choice that aligns with global environmental goals—goals your students share. Campuses wanting alternatives to traditional landscaping are increasingly using alternatives that are better for the environment without detracting from the beauty. Some of the most popular alternatives include:

- Native plantings: Use indigenous plants in landscaping, as they require less water and maintenance than exotic species. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and support local wildlife.
- **Drought-resistant landscaping:** In regions prone to water scarcity, xeriscaping is an excellent option. It minimizes the need for irrigation and often includes gravel, succulents, and native grasses.
- **Permeable paving:** Choose permeable pavement options for walkways and driveways. These allow rainwater to seep through, reducing runoff and contributing to groundwater recharge.
- Green roofs and living walls: Incorporate green roofs and living walls to enhance the beauty of your campus while also improving insulation, reducing energy costs, and promoting biodiversity.
- Rain gardens: Create rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff. These gardens can help filter pollutants from runoff and replenish local aquifers.*

Outdoor Environments and Mental Well-Being

Private higher education institutions have a responsibility not only to educate but also to nurture the mental well-being of their students

and entire university community. Exterior landscaping plays a surprisingly significant role in this regard. Access to green spaces has been linked to reduced stress levels and improved mental health. Outdoor environments, particularly those with elements like water features or natural sculptures, can stimulate creativity and improve concentration. Comfortable outdoor areas make for great study spots on a pretty day. And well-designed outdoor spaces also encourage physical activity, promoting a healthy lifestyle. Finally, changing landscapes throughout the seasons provide a dynamic and ever-evolving environment, offering visual interest and emotional stimulation. *

Case Studies: Success Stories in Higher Education Landscaping

To illustrate the tangible benefits of strategic landscaping, two institutions of private higher education stand out.

1. Stanford University:

Stanford's commitment to sustainable landscaping is evident in its use of native and drought-resistant plants across campus. The university has also implemented a comprehensive stormwater management plan, featuring permeable pavements and bioswales. Stanford's lush gardens and outdoor art installations create a visually stimulating and inviting atmosphere for students and visitors alike.

2. University of Virginia:

The University of Virginia's iconic Lawn and Rotunda are prime examples of thoughtful landscape design. These historic spaces offer a sense of tradition and community. The university has also embraced sustainable practices by integrating rain gardens and green roofs into new construction projects.

If you're considering revamping your institution's exterior landscaping, here are some actionable steps:

- Conduct a landscape assessment: Start by assessing your current outdoor spaces. Identify areas that require attention and improvement.
- **Set sustainability goals:** Define your institution's sustainability goals and objectives for landscaping. Consider factors like water conservation, waste reduction, and biodiversity promotion.

- Engage landscape architects: Collaborate with experienced landscape architects who can help you design outdoor spaces that align with your goals, budget, and vision.
- Involve the campus community: Seek input from students, faculty, and staff to ensure that your landscaping plans cater to the needs and desires of your campus community.
- Implement a maintenance plan: A well-executed plan must be followed by a robust maintenance strategy to keep your outdoor spaces vibrant and inviting.

Cultivating Excellence through Landscape Design

In the world of private higher education, exterior landscaping isn't merely about beautification—it's about creating an environment that fosters well-being, enhances the institution's image, and attracts prospective students. By embracing sustainable practices

and prioritizing outdoor spaces, private institutions can set themselves apart, making a lasting impression on all who walk through their gates. Remember, the power of nature is not only in its aesthetic appeal but also in its ability to nurture the mind and spirit, enriching the educational experience for all.

- * To learn more about sustainable landscaping practices, visit the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).
- ** For a more in-depth exploration of the connection between nature and well-being, consult resources from the National Park Service's Healthy Parks Healthy People Program.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ed Bauer has been in publishing for over twenty years. In his early career years, he worked on the staff at Mount Union College and for the last twelve years as publisher and managing partner at Flaherty Media has been privileged to tour many private higher education campuses and talk with numerous staff members who manage these multiple building facilities. He can be reached at ed@pupnmag.com.





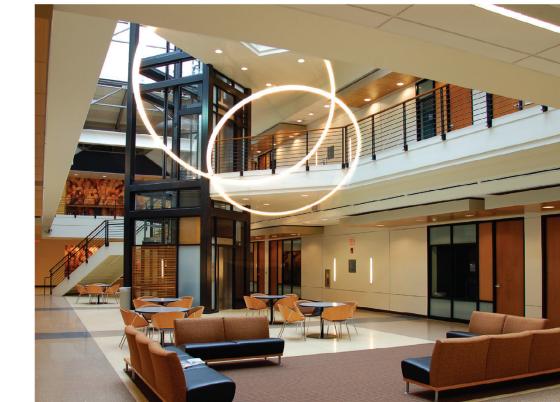


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The Kassin Center at NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



The Kassin Center at New York University (NYU) is a hub of academic excellence and social interaction, serving as a dynamic space where students, faculty, and visitors come together to study, collaborate, and engage in various activities. Recognizing the importance of well-designed lighting in enhancing both the aesthetics and functionality of this space, NYU opted to partner with VONN Lighting to illuminate the Kassin Center with their cutting-edge LED chandeliers. This case study explores the installation of VONN Lighting's LED chandeliers at the Kassin Center and highlights the numerous benefits they brought to this prestigious institution.

The Kassin Center is a multi-purpose facility that houses libraries, study areas, lecture halls, meeting rooms, and lounges. Prior to the installation of VONN Lighting's LED chandeliers, the center relied on traditional lighting solutions, which not only consumed significant energy but also lacked the flexibility to adapt to different activities and moods within the space.

The partnership between NYU and VONN Lighting to install LED chandeliers in the Kassin Center demonstrates the transformative power of advanced lighting technology in educational and social spaces. The benefits of LED lighting, including energy efficiency, customization options, longevity, and improved ambiance, have made the Kassin Center a more inviting and functional space for the NYU community. This case study serves as a testament to the importance of thoughtful lighting design in creating exceptional learning and social environments within educational institutions.

LED lighting is renowned for its energy efficiency, consuming significantly less electricity compared to traditional lighting options. This aligns with NYU's commitment to sustainability, reducing both energy costs and the institution's carbon footprint. LEDs have an exceptionally long lifespan, reducing maintenance and replacement costs. This is especially crucial in large institutions like NYU, where the maintenance of lighting fixtures can be a significant expense.

This case study highlights the transformative impact of VONN Lighting's LED chandeliers, showcasing the importance of thoughtful lighting design in creating exceptional educational and social spaces within institutions like NYU. LED lighting offers numerous benefits to students' focus and overall well being.

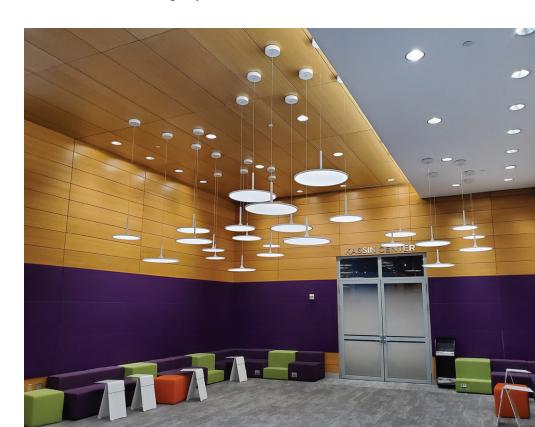
It is important to note that the quality of LED lighting can vary widely, and not all LED lighting is created equal. When selecting LED lighting for work or study spaces, it is important to choose high-quality products that have been designed with health and well-being in mind.

LED lighting can provide a more even distribution of light and customization of brightness through dimmers, allowing for optimal illumination that suits different tasks and moods. This adaptability helps reduce eye strain, improve concentration, and create a more comfortable study environment. Additionally, LED lighting is known for its flicker-free performance, which reduces the potential for headaches and visual discomfort. Its consistent and high-quality illumination supports better reading comprehension and information retention, ultimately enhancing students' academic performance.

The benefits of LED lighting were evident immediately, as the Kassin Center experienced significant energy savings, customization options for different activities, and increased longevity of



lighting fixtures. These improvements not only reduced operational costs but also contributed to a more inviting and adaptable environment for studying, lectures, social gatherings, and events. The installation of LED chandeliers not only aligned with NYU's sustainability goals but also elevated the overall experience within the Kassin Center, garnering praise from students, faculty, and staff alike. This case study highlights the transformative impact of VONN Lighting's LED chandeliers, showcasing the importance of thoughtful lighting design in creating exceptional educational and social spaces within institutions like NYU.

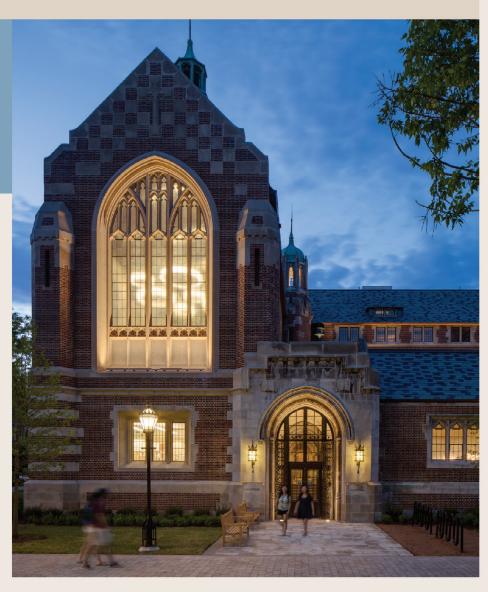


SAIEH HALL FOR ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Hope's® windows improve building performance and maintain the historic character of the building.

Katie Gerner Associate, AIA, LEED AP Ann Beha Architects, Boston, MA



The University of Chicago's new Saieh Hall for Economics occupies a full city block and represents the finest in adaptive reuse expertise thanks, in part, to Hope's® custom, handcrafted hot-rolled solid steel windows.

The first phase of the project transformed what had been the Chicago Theological Seminary – an iconic red-bricked structure built in 1928 – into a 100,000-square foot building that preserves the beauty and grandeur of the historic original while updating it with 21st-century features and efficiencies.

The project involved the replacement of 307 windows. These included the installation of Hope's Jamestown175™ Series 45-minute fire rated fixed windows and swing doors; Jamestown175 Series non-fire rated fixed windows and swing doors; and Landmark175™

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Ann Beha Architects, Boston, MA

Owner:

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Doors:

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"Hope's windows improve building performance and maintain the historic character of the building," says Katie Gerner, Associate, AIA, LEED AP, of Ann Beha Architects, Boston, MA.

The project started in 2010 with a preservation assessment to analyze the conditions of the building's historic features, including the windows.

"A window mock-up was performed during the design phase of the project to test different treatment options for aesthetics, performance, technical feasibility and cost," Gerner says.

The project's Phase I achieved LEED Gold and has received rave reviews. The *Chicago Tribune* declared, "The marriage of the old seminary and its new occupants seems like a match made in architecture heaven."

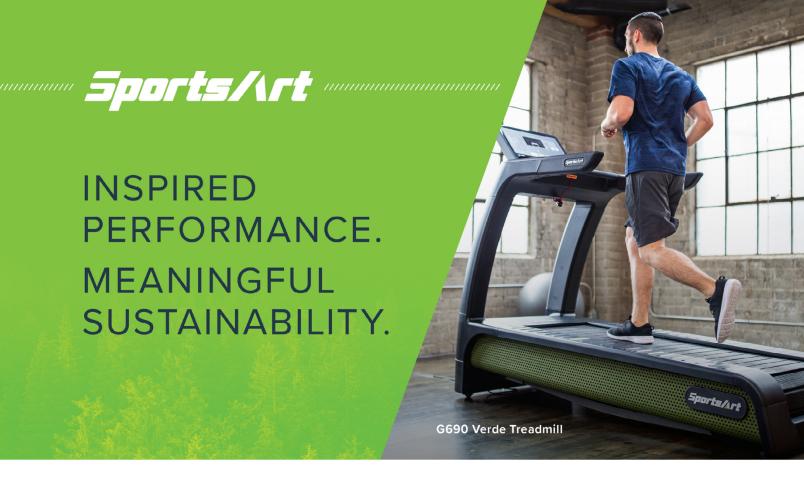
The University of Chicago's website describes the building this way: "The adapted site features a Gothic entryway, gardens and outdoor seating, as well as creative use of light and glass. The property now includes four buildings: the original 1928 Chicago Theological Seminary building, two landmark row houses...and a new piece of contemporary architecture to connect the buildings, integrating new and old."



Saieh Hall incorporates 77,000 square feet of repurposed space and 23,000 square feet of expansion. The Phase I overall construction cost was \$54 million.

The new hall is named in honor of one of the University's trustees, Alvaro Saieh, in recognition of his significant donation for a new home for the Department of Economics and the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics.





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 - Zayn Dweik | Undergraduate Student
 Government Chief of Staff at Ohio State
- "We hope to instill a sense of "giving back," as participants can see what they are generating—in terms of energy savings—therefore helping our campus community and beyond. This is something that can transcend their time at USF."
 - Jay Souza | Director of Recreation and Wellness, University of Southern Florida





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STREAMLINING SPRINKLER SYSTEM TESTING AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania State University, with its sprawling campus and a student body of approximately 45,000 undergraduate students, faces the formidable challenge of maintaining and ensuring the safety of its numerous residence halls. One of the critical aspects of safety is the regular testing of the fire sprinkler systems. However, the large campus size, coupled with difficult access to testing valves, posed significant challenges to the university's facility management team.

THE CHALLENGE:

Time and Accessibility

Penn State's extensive campus and a multitude of onsite residence halls presented a difficult testing challenge for the university's facility management team. The sprinkler system testing process consumed a substantial amount of time and resources from an already stretched staff. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the test valves were often located in locked closets with secured handles, necessitating additional time to access and process the tests. Completing testing for one residence hall complex frequently required the efforts of two staff members over multiple days, straining the department's capacity.

THE SOLUTION:

Retrofitting AGF's REMOTETEST

Recognizing the need for a more efficient solution, Pennsylvania State University decided to retrofit AGF's REMOTETEST system into their existing sprinkler systems. This innovative solution transformed the testing process, allowing a single staff member to conduct tests in

a fraction of the time previously required. The key features of AGF's REMOTETEST system include:

- Centralized Control: Testing is initiated from an auxiliary panel located near the Fire Control Panel, covering the entire residence complex. This centralization streamlines the testing process, making it more efficient and reducing the need for multiple staff members to be present on-site.
- Access Simplification: AGF's system addressed the issue of inaccessible valves by providing a secure but easily accessible way to initiate tests. This eliminated the need for time-consuming unlocking closets and test valve handles and improved overall accessibility.
- Time Savings: The implementation of REMOTETEST drastically reduced the time required to complete testing, allowing the facility management team to focus their efforts on other critical tasks.

Success and Expansion

The decision to retrofit AGF's Model 1200 REMOTETEST into their existing sprinkler systems proved to be a game-changer for Pennsylvania State University. The results were so impressive that the Model 1200 REMOTETEST system became an integral part of the university's sprinkler specification for both retrofitting and new construction projects.

To date, more than twenty residence halls on campus, the Food Science Complex, and the Historic McAllister Hall have been equipped with AGF's REMOTETEST system.



This implementation has not only enhanced campus safety but also saved the university's facilities staff countless hours of work, allowing them to allocate their time and resources more effectively.

Pennsylvania State University's collaboration with AGF to implement REMOTETEST into their sprinkler systems exemplifies how innovation and technology can revolutionize facility management on large university campuses. By streamlining the testing process, improving accessibility, and saving valuable time and resources, the university has taken a significant step toward ensuring the safety of its students and staff. To learn more about REMOTETEST and other innovative products by AGF Manufacturing, please visit www.AGFMFG.com





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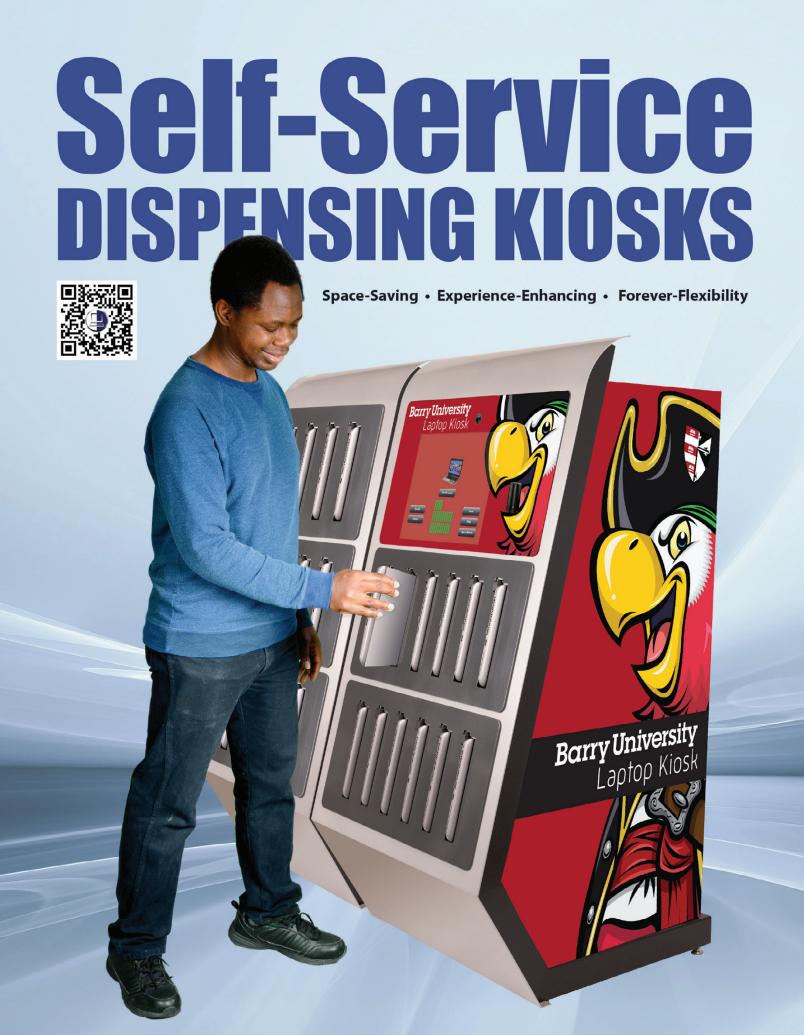
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Maximize Learning Environments

with Flexible Power Distribution and Mobile Furniture

In this article, we will explore how flexible power distribution and mobile furniture allow for space optimization and the transformation of computer labs to active learning environments.

Smartdesks: Custom Solutions for a Changing World

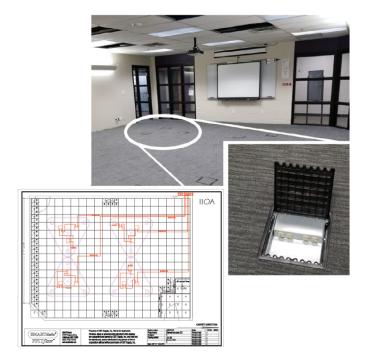
SMARTdesks transforms traditional computer labs into digital media centers. University classrooms today are dynamic spaces where students collaborate, create, and engage with different educational media. In turn, computer labs are evolving towards digital media centers and active learning spaces. SMARTdesks liberates universities from hardware upgrades to transform traditional classrooms into versatile hubs of learning.

How To Transform Your Computer Lab

Universities are reducing hardware replenishment costs by providing accessible, mobile-friendly spaces for their academic communities. More and more students have their own devices, including smartphones, tablets, and laptops; multiple studies show that over 80 to 90% of all college students have their own device that they use regularly in their studies. Cloud computing and virtual instruction enable student mobility and reduce the need for universities to maintain expensive hardware in the form of computer lab equipment. There will always be a need for computer labs and makerspaces with highly specialized software and hardware, but the trend is leading towards nearly ubiquitous "Bring Your Own Device" policies with access to university -provided SaaS applications.

So, how can a university maximize the real estate that was formerly dedicated to computer labs? The leading solution is to create an active learning center that allows students to use their own devices. They can work individually and collectively in comfortable, informal environments that promote learning and community. Universities can facilitate positive student engagement in these on-site facilities with collaborative furniture, which produces an in-person experience that cannot be replicated virtually.

Collaboration furniture returns dividends by adapting to different teaching styles and learning needs, increasing student engagement and success. Reconfigurable and mobile, SMARTdesks collaboration furniture is equipped with power and data modules and supports the trend towards personalized learning. Universities need to create a bridge between real-world and digital engagement by converting redundant computer labs to collaborative workspaces.



Collaboration furniture equipped with multi-use desktops accommodates mobile devices and university-provided monitors, ensuring that students have the flexibility to choose their preferred digital experience. Multi-use desktops not only maximize space but also promote active learning by allowing students to seamlessly switch between digital resources and tactile materials.

With the increase in mobile device usage, it is important to create safe, trip-free spaces with accessible power and data connectivity. Many digital media centers and classrooms are cluttered with extensions cords and chargers because the question of power and data was never addressed for the new mobile world. The SMARTdesks brand Smartflor raised access flooring system eliminates hazards by seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology with practical design. Universities can effortlessly reconfigure outlets and connectivity points throughout the learning space. This transformation empowers institutions to adapt to the ever-changing demands of students who use the same space for multiple purposes. By replacing static computer lab setups with SMARTflor, universities gain the flexibility to create multifunctional spaces. SMARTflor accommodates video editing suites, photography studios, e-sports classrooms, and collaborative workspaces for any type of project. SMARTdesks offers power and data layouts for the SMARTflor system to complement its line of active learning furniture such as the Exchange, iGroup, Quark, and Trapeza Tables.

The conversion of computer labs into flexible learning spaces makes the university relevant. SMARTdesks offers a complete product line to furnish the advanced technology centers that define post-pandemic learning environments.

About the Author: Mira Korber has served as the Chief Strategy Officer for SMARTdesks since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. SMARTdesks works hand in hand with clients to furnish safe learning spaces for in-person, hybrid, and remote learning. Mira is passionate about reforming the education system with the goal of improving learning and professional outcomes for all. She holds a Master of Education Policy from Vanderbilt University.





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Bard College Awarded \$750,000 from National Park Service for Restoration of Montgomery Place Mansion

The National Parks Service (NPS) has announced that Bard College has been chosen as a recipient of a \$750,000 Save America's Treasures grant through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). This prestigious award will help support the restoration of the Montgomery Place Mansion, a National Historic Landmark owned by Bard College. The grant funding will support structural repairs to the exterior of the building in order to restore its integrity and resiliency for future preservation.

"As stewards of this historic property, we're gratified that the National Park Service has recognized the importance of Montgomery Place and awarded us this generous grant to support its ongoing restoration and conservation," said Bard College President Leon Botstein.

The work at Montgomery Place Mansion will include a comprehensive assessment of

the structural conditions and will help secure the long-term preservation of the building, its finishes, and its collections. Following completion of the structural assessment and a comprehensive onsite evaluation of the building envelope, restoration work will begin focusing on the mansion roof, drainage, north- and east-facing porches, as well as exterior paint.

Montgomery Place, a 380-acre estate adjacent to the main Bard College campus and overlooking the Hudson River, is a designated National Historic Landmark set amid rolling lawns, woodlands, and gardens, against the spectacular backdrop of the Catskill Mountains. The mansion is part of the Hudson River Historic District and plays a crucial role in defining the region's unique cultural landscape, and the estate site functions as a microcosm of American landscape history, evolving through the centuries to its latest reincarnation

as an integrated part of the Bard College campus. Bard is committed to conserving the Montgomery Place Mansion and its significant historic and cultural collection, along with the landscape, farm, and public access to this unique and extraordinary site.

Established in 1977, the Historic Preservation Fund has provided more than \$2 billion in historic preservation grants to states, tribes, local governments and non-profit organizations. Administered by the NPS, Congress appropriates from the HPF to support a variety of historic preservation projects to help preserve the nation's cultural resources and history.

Founded in 1860, Bard College is a four-year, residential college of the liberal arts and sciences located 90 miles north of New York City. With the addition of the Montgomery Place estate, Bard's campus consists of nearly 1,000 parklike acres in the Hudson River Valley.





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