







Showcase of Excellence 2024

When our readers requested a special annual feature highlighting providers who offer quality products and services for private colleges and universities, we were happy to oblige. This "Showcase of Excellence," which appears each year in our June issue, is filled with case studies and product showcased from our sponsors, who represent top service and product providers exclusive to the higher education market.

These pages exhibit more in-depth information on these quality providers and their products, along with demonstrative case studies that will help administrators in higher education fulfill their mission of providing excellent experiences throughout their facilities. And just as readers may face the challenge of not having enough time to communicate every single aspect of their higher learning meccas with students and communities—we were similarly limited by available space in this issue and could not include every single one of the companies that we know can help college and university decision-makers. Our hope, however, is that readers will enjoy the information that space allows us to include, and we know this information will help higher ed administrators continue to be successful in providing quality facilities and experiences to the many lives their colleges and universities touch.

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Aerial photo by Greg Vogel



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At a major university residential expansion project in the Southeast, collaboration and cooperation among the construction management firm, window and door manufacturer, and installation contractor resulted in a several stunning projects recreating the look of the surrounding century-old buildings. All totaled, Hope's Windows, Inc., supplied over 1,200 unique windows made from custom hot-rolled steel profiles and nearly 100 high traffic and fire-rated door assemblies made from 10 and 12 gauge cold-rolled steel.

According to Sean Farrell, senior project manager at Layton Construction, establishing collaborative relationships is key to successful construction projects. One of the best examples of this maxim is a multi-phase university project for which Layton Construction is serving as construction manager. Layton, part of the STO Building Group, is a nationally-ranked commercial contractor with ten offices around the United States. The firm specializes in healthcare, industrial, warehousing, and higher education projects. As construction manager, Layton hires the sub-contractors and manages and oversees the project as part of a team.



Since we were building windows and doors to make a brand new college, we needed a company with the methodology to produce the product like it was done 100 years ago.

— Sean Farrell, Sr Project Manager Layton Construction

Hope's Brian Whalen, Vice President of Sales, acknowledges that the project was a real test of Hope's capabilities. He is especially proud that they Hope's was able to expedite the schedule even in the face of design changes and in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. The shop drawing approval process – including preparation of blueprints of windows and doors with all setting conditions, sizes, customized designs, and required testing – took longer than normal. Changes were made along the way that might have pushed back the delivery schedules for some, but Hope's made adjustments during the production process to deliver all materials on time. Whalen gave a nod to Joey Riggan and the team at Alexander Metals, the frame and glass installer team, saying the overall project went extremely smoothly once the frames were on site.

Says Whalen, "It was a fantastic collaboration among all the parties. Hope's worked closely as the manufacturer to fulfi I the architect's design vision, and then the installer worked closely with us to make sure everything was installed executed properly."

РНОТОS: Steve Hall, © Hall + Merrick Photographers

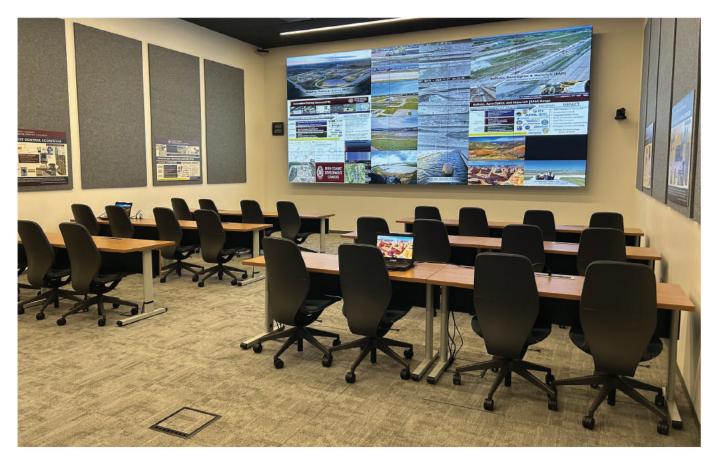


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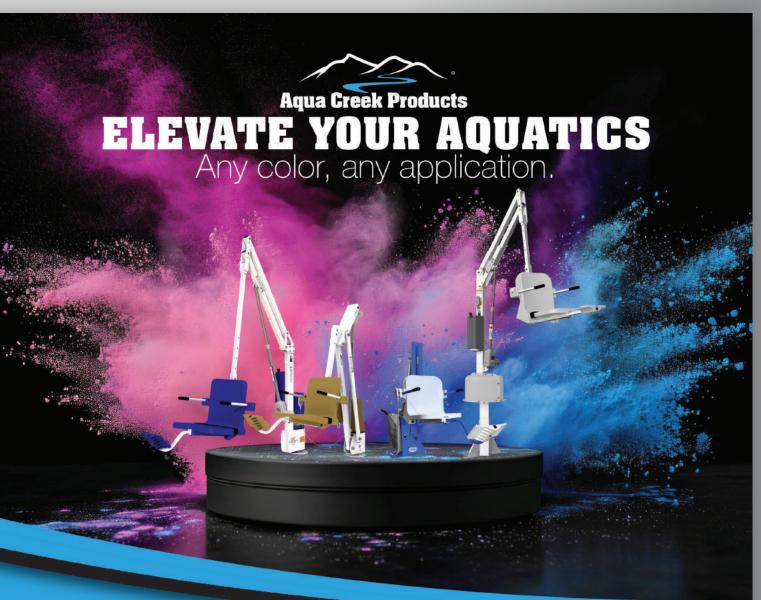
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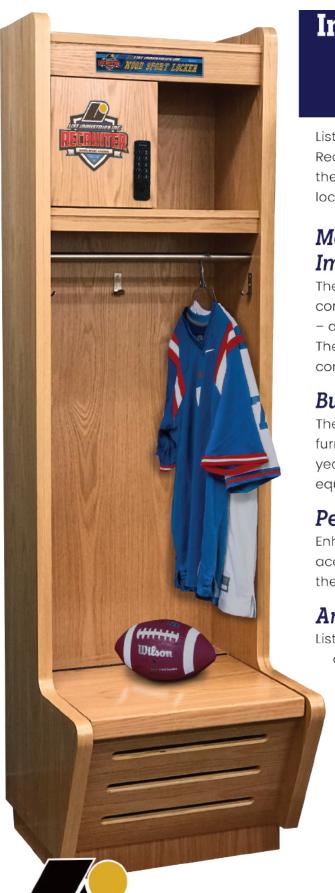






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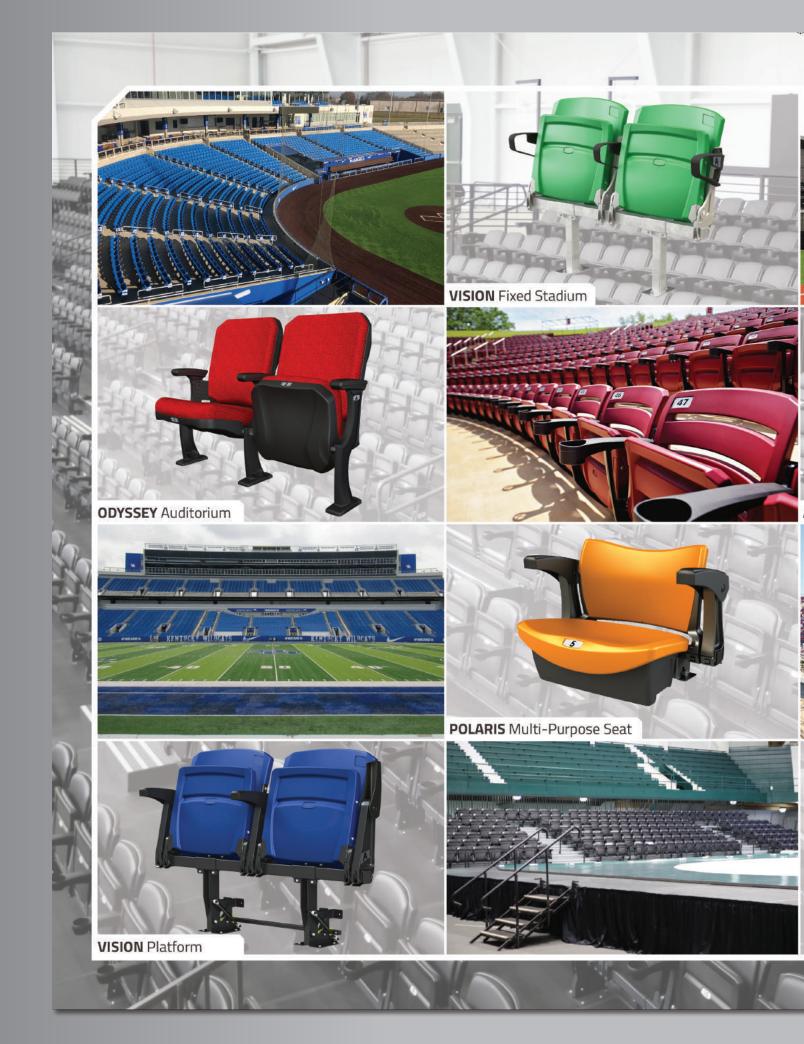
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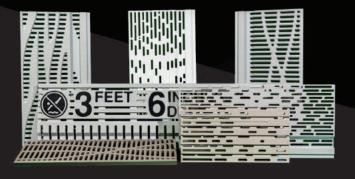


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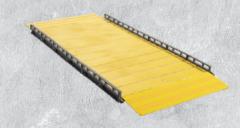
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