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JANUARY 2026  
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#### Commitment to Mentoring at Monmouth College

Students and colleagues see Audra Goach—professor of Chemistry and chair of the School of Health and Natural Sciences at Monmouth College—as an education innovator, inspiring mentor, faculty advocate, and a model for many women on campus, particularly in STEM. Her creative energy comes to bear across disciplines—most memorably when she staged an elaborate crime scene for her forensic-science students to investigate.

### FLOORING

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#### The Secret to Maintaining Wood Floors. It's All About Moisture Content

Beautiful wood floors elevate any campus space—but hidden moisture can threaten their durability. Learn how to spot problems early and protect your investment before damage is done.

# Editor's Letter

JANUARY 2026



Happy New Year! If you're reading this with a cup of coffee in one hand and a to-do list in the other, welcome to January on a college campus—where optimism is high, budgets are fresh (for now), and everyone believes this is the year every project will go exactly as planned.

January is always one of my favorite issues because it's our **Annual Buyer's Guide**, and this edition feels a bit like opening the campus version of a treasure chest. Inside, you'll find the companies, products, and services that help keep private college and university campuses running, improving, and—on the best days—looking downright impressive.

As we step into a new year, I can't help but feel energized by what's happening across the country. From major facility renovations and sustainability initiatives to technology upgrades, safety improvements, and outdoor space transformations, private campuses are buzzing with ideas and momentum. Every time we talk with facility leaders, administrators, and partners, we're reminded that higher education never really slows down—it just changes gears.

This Buyer's Guide is designed to make your job a little easier. Whether you're planning a major capital project, researching solutions for an aging building, or simply trying to find a better way to tackle a persistent campus challenge, we hope this issue becomes a resource you come back to throughout the year. (Dog-earing pages and sticky notes are highly encouraged—we consider that a compliment.)

Of course, January is also a time for reflection. We're incredibly grateful to our readers and advertisers who allow *Private University Products & News* to be part of their planning process. You trust us to connect you with solutions that matter, and that's something we never take lightly. As we head into the year ahead, we're excited to continue telling the stories of innovation, resilience, and creativity happening on private campuses everywhere. If this year brings new buildings, bold ideas, or even just a perfectly executed maintenance project that went unnoticed (we see you), we want to hear about it.

Here's to a wonderful, successful, and productive New Year. May your projects stay on schedule, your vendors answer emails promptly, and your coffee always be strong.

Ed Bauer, Publisher

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# Interim Dining Solutions for Campus Renovations



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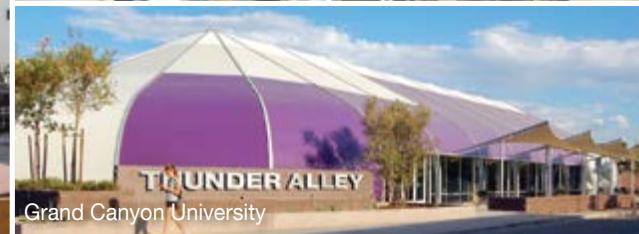
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Grand Canyon University



PHOTO COURTESY MONMOUTH COLLEGE

Additionally—in a field which is often perceived as focusing on calculations and not communication—Goach methodically develops her students’ abilities to not only master the material but to effectively write and talk about their findings, as well.

#### **Focus on Students**

As Goach prepared to take her first tenure-track job in 2006, she realized that she had been highly trained in her field but not well prepared to actually teach Chemistry. This reality is one reason Goach chose the job at Monmouth; she knew that retiring Chemistry professor Richard “Doc” Keift would offer strong pedagogical mentorship if she were nearby. As she carries on Keift’s legacy of generous mentorship, Goach says that he “lives on every day in all the work” that she and her students do.

In learning how to become an effective classroom teacher, Goach has become vitally interested in supporting every student’s success. Alex Blom—professor of Physical Science and program director of Mathematics and Physical Science at Alverno

College—sees that vital interest play out in her “way of connecting with students that is unusual” in the sciences. As a visiting assistant professor, Blom sat in on Goach’s analytical chemistry class with the goal of learning her teaching techniques. He noticed that Goach is “bluntly honest and forthcoming with students—about her expectations and about how they should be growing as learners.” If the class does not grasp some of the course content, Goach invariably changes her class plan “on the fly,” working with the material until each student understands it. David Wright—professor of English at Monmouth College—reports that he has learned “quite a bit” from Goach’s approach to teaching, and he points out that she is also a “model for many women on campus, particularly in STEM. Some of her mentoring comes in the form of helping students think about how they interact with a powerful female presence in the room.”

Goach has opportunities to inspire students outside of the Chemistry major, as well. For one example, she teaches a forensic science

## **Commitment to Mentoring at Monmouth College**

BY CYNTHIA MWENJA, PhD

Audra Goach—professor of Chemistry and chair of the School of Health and Natural Sciences at Monmouth College—is a highly effective Chemistry educator who deeply appreciates the mentoring in both research and pedagogy that she has received throughout her career. She provides the benefits of that mentorship to her students through an array of activities and interactions in her classrooms, her lab, and beyond campus.

class each spring that is quite popular with students in a variety of majors. In this class, students learn real-world techniques for crime scene investigation. As a culminating activity in the class, Goach collaborates with other faculty members to create a “real life” crime scene on campus. The year that Blom was there, the scenario was that a student had been attacked in an elevator, and Blom himself was the “perpetrator.” The meticulously-planned crime scene was filled with as many realistic details as possible; Blom even bought duct tape from a specific retail outlet so that the receipt—with his fingerprints on it—could be left on the scene. The students investigated the scene and ended up fingerprinting and questioning him to solve the case. Such activities demonstrate the ways that Goach goes far beyond expectations to connect her students with classroom content. In a mark of just how effective her pedagogical methods are, Goach has been recognized for excellence in teaching with Monmouth’s alum-nominated Hatch award. She is honored to have received the award, chiefly because “You don’t know how you’ve impacted them, how well they felt mentored and cared for.”



PHOTO COURTESY MONMOUTH COLLEGE

### Student Research and Mentoring

As Goach began her work at Monmouth, she also realized she had not been trained to oversee researchers her own labs, where she builds on her doctoral and post-doc work with model cell membranes, time-of-flight (ToF) spectroscopy, and atomic force microscopy (AFM). Her lack of specific training for overseeing student researchers was particularly daunting in her first year, when she and Biochemistry colleague Laura Moore—also new to campus—shared responsibility for all senior chemistry research projects. The two colleagues guided the students to the best of their abilities, and many of their students were accepted to present posters at the American Chemical Society that year. This conference led to Goach meeting her research mentor, Colorado State University professor Debbie Crans. Crans—an accomplished researcher who later received the American Chemical Society Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry—saw possibilities of collaboration between her own research and Goach's; she got in touch, and the two have been collaborating

ever since. Goach accredits much of her own success to having benefitted from Crans' guidance as a female mentor.

Wright admires the way that Goach has become "an exceptional mentor for all students," with her guidance beginning at Monmouth and continuing for many students as they pursue their careers. Goach's students regularly present at national Chemistry conferences, which is unusual for undergraduate students. Blom attributes her students' conference acceptances to the way that Goach "instills a culture of students gaining confidence" by creating a "supportive, positive environment for research." Goach also includes students as co-authors on many of the peer-reviewed journal articles she has published, and she maintains strong relationships with many alums in an array of positions, including industry, high school teaching, and medical and graduate school placements.

Chris Knutson—IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering Lab manager at the University of Iowa—is one of those students who maintains

a relationship with Goach. He states that Goach has been a "mentor and guiding force" in his life as he served as a teaching assistant and tutor in her classes. Knutson values the fact that Monmouth's smaller class sizes allow faculty members to give attention to reading, writing, and communicating, and he keenly appreciates Goach's strong emphasis on all three skills. Her students clearly learn the discipline of Chemistry, but they also learn to effectively communicate their ideas to others.

Knutson offers an example of Goach's mentorship extending beyond the Monmouth campus. When Knutson was applying to graduate programs, Goach went out of her way to drive him to the University of Iowa and introduce him to Monmouth alums on the faculty there. Knutson says that these connections were extremely helpful to him as he applied and was accepted to the program. After earning his PhD in Chemistry at the University of Iowa, he was hired to his current position, in which he oversees twenty-one labs, eighty researchers, and nine buildings on campus. Because he experienced the sense *continued...*

of community that a small college can provide, Knutson now focuses on providing that same sense of community to the researchers he oversees. He largely attributes to Goach his focus on building community, developing his student researchers' communication skills, and seeing the value in each person individually. Like Knutson, many of Goach's students follow her trajectory from a small liberal arts undergraduate experience to a large state school for doctoral work. Goach earned a B.S. in Chemistry from Muhlenberg College, then attained her PhD in Chemistry from Pennsylvania State University and completed post-doctoral work at University of Pennsylvania.

#### Summer Research Opportunities

In addition to overseeing student researchers throughout the academic year, Goach works with her Chemistry department colleagues to run the eight-week summer research program underwritten by a bequest from Keift. This program provides housing, a stipend, and

research supplies to students who participate, allowing as many as ten students to pursue a variety of research questions relating to synthesis, the microbiome, and both human and bacterial cellular membranes. During the summer program, Knutson also invites Monmouth's students to tour his labs at the University of Iowa to see what graduate school looks like; and he states that he would not have thought of offering this opportunity to Monmouth students if Goach hadn't brought him to the campus before he applied to grad school.

For the last two summers, Goach has also taken part in Monmouth's Summer Opportunities for Intellectual Activities (SOfIA) program, in which incoming first-year students dive into academic inquiry as their introduction to college life. Participating students work in groups of two or three with a faculty member and returning student mentor to conduct meaningful research during the three-week program. Two years ago, Goach

teamed up with Wright to guide students in building an escape room for others to enjoy. Wright's students wrote the story behind the installment, while Goach's students placed the clues and learned the lab work to analyze them. The team developed four rooms, with one suspect to be eliminated in each room. In the first week, Goach's group learned how to do the experiments; the second week, they developed the clues, and in the third week, they built the rooms. Despite a few stressful moments in packing this ambitious project into such a short time, Goach reports that the process was a wonderful—and memorable—experience for the students. Goach and Wright will speak about this project in a pedagogical presentation at the March 2026 American Chemical Society meeting.

Last summer, Goach again teamed up with Wright for SOfIA, this time focusing their offering on the "CSI effect"—the ways that crime dramas affect popular perceptions of crime scene investigation and judicial

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proceedings. All students watched *CSI*, then Wright's students analyzed the show as a procedural drama, while Goach's students analyzed the plot lines for scientific accuracy. The students then interviewed many of their fellow SOfIA students, surveying to find out how much their understanding of crime and court proceedings was affected by exposure to shows like *CSI*. This SOfIA session culminated in the students compiling a podcast to report their findings.

#### Faculty Service

Mark Willhardt—vice president for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Monmouth College—notes that one thing that distinguishes Goach is that she is “not only great in the classroom, but she is also dedicated to service.” When she served on the faculty senate, including a term as its chair, Willhardt admired the way that Goach was “very effective in representing faculty concerns in conversation with college administration and board”; she was able to

*continued...*



PHOTO COURTESY MONMOUTH COLLEGE



## The Eco-Friendly Tree Grate



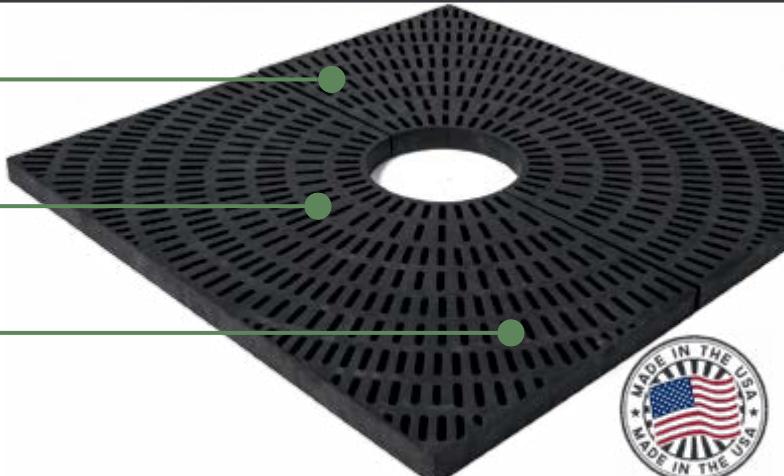
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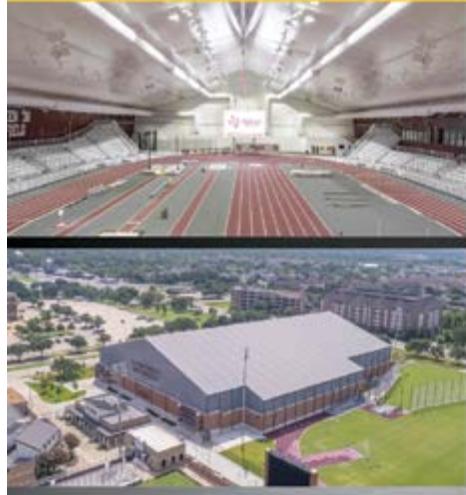
vigorously represent the faculty point of view while “balancing interests in an issue.” Having served the maximum number of terms on faculty senate, Goach now brings her deep institutional knowledge to the campus budget committee, where her “ability to see the whole of the college” and “deep, clear insights” help the committee move forward with its work.

Goach has recently been tapped to chair the newly formed School of Health and Natural Sciences; she says she’s been spending “lots of time figuring out” that role and how it differs from chairing the three-person Chemistry Department, as she had done previously. Currently in her 20th year at Monmouth, she sees this moment as a natural time to step into an administrative role. The new school brings together disparate programs, including Health Sciences and Human Movement, Exercise Science, Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Physical Education, Health Education, Nursing 3+1 Programs, and several pre-professional programs. Willhardt was delighted to see Goach step into the new chair role, citing her ability to apply her experience as a faculty advocate to the “kinds of decisions that need to be made with multiple constituents.” He sees her “drawing diverse faculty into a cohesive group,” which is a “strength she’s had and is really developing now.”

Goach’s accomplishments over her 20 years in higher education provide an inspiring model for other college and university professors to emulate. She continues to publish, both on her own and in collaboration with colleagues and students, and she is committed to fulfilling her faculty service roles to her utmost ability. Most of all, Goach has developed a keen appreciation of the role mentorship plays in her own and her students’ academic lives. As she mentors her own students, she cultivates their communication skills and continues to support them as they pursue a variety of successful careers. Seeing students succeed with her support has led Goach to “truly believe in mentorship.” As she points out, “If you can help someone, you should.”



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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Dr. Cynthia Mwenja teaches Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Montevallo.



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FLOORING

## The Secret to Maintaining Wood Floors It's All About Moisture Content

BY LIGNOMAT

Well-maintained wood floors and other interior wood products set the tone for a room or entire building. The look is timeless, sophisticated, and a great choice for a wide variety of settings on campus.

Maintaining their natural beauty can be challenging, however—and it's all about moisture content. If the moisture content of wood products stays within acceptable limits, maintenance is relatively easy. But managing wood's natural response to changes in moisture content can be complex. Buildings often contain many wood components—from gymnasium floors, wooden stairs, and moldings to doors, cabinets, and wall or ceiling panels. Like most building materials, wood is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs or releases moisture depending on the surrounding environment.

At the time of installation, it is generally assumed that wood products are within an acceptable moisture content range. According to industry guidelines, wood floors, cabinets,

and doors should typically have a moisture content between 6% and 9%, which corresponds to an indoor relative humidity (RH) of 30%–50%. Maintaining this RH range consistently is critical. Because wood continually reacts to its environment, fluctuations in humidity can lead to long-term performance and aesthetic issues.

This basketball hardwood maple floor (above) had big problems that originated from too much moisture coming through improperly insulated walls during the wet winter months. The Ligno-VersaTec allowed checking for relative humidity and measuring the elevated moisture levels of the floor plank. The only remedy was to replace the floor because the floorboards were cupping.

Using a moisture meter and a thermo-hygrometer is considered best practice to ensure proper conditions are maintained. These tools help verify that wood floors, doors, cabinets, and wall panels remain stable and visually appealing for many years. A versatile instrument, such as the Ligno-VersaTec moisture meter with thermo-hygrometer, allows maintenance personnel to detect and track potential moisture-related issues throughout a building.

One of the key advantages of owning a moisture meter is the ability to record and compare measurements over time. Changes in moisture content can serve as early warning signs that a problem may be developing. Identifying these changes early enables maintenance teams to address issues before they escalate into costly repairs or structural damage. This preventative role is one of the most important functions of moisture measurement.

Moisture problems can originate from multiple sources, including elevated indoor relative humidity or moisture intrusion

### Equilibrium Moisture Content Chart (EMC)

T °C °F	Relative Humidity																			
	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	
-1	30	1.4	2.6	3.7	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.8	8.7	9.5	10.4	11.3	12.4	13.5	14.9	16.5	18.5	21.0	24.3
4	40	1.4	2.6	3.7	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.8	8.7	9.5	10.4	11.3	12.4	13.5	14.9	16.5	18.5	21.0	24.3
10	50	1.4	2.6	3.6	4.6	5.5	6.3	7.1	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.3	11.2	12.3	13.4	14.8	16.4	18.4	20.9	24.3
16	60	1.3	2.5	3.6	4.6	5.4	6.2	7.0	7.8	8.6	9.4	10.2	11.1	12.1	13.3	14.6	16.2	18.2	20.7	24.1
21	70	1.3	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.4	6.2	6.9	7.7	8.5	9.2	10.1	11.0	12.0	13.1	14.4	16.0	17.9	20.5	23.9
27	80	1.3	2.4	3.5	4.4	5.3	6.1	6.8	7.6	8.3	9.1	9.6	10.8	11.7	12.9	14.2	15.7	17.7	20.2	23.6
32	90	1.2	2.3	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.9	6.7	7.4	8.1	8.9	9.7	10.5	11.5	12.6	13.9	15.4	17.3	19.8	23.3
38	100	1.2	2.3	3.3	4.2	5.0	5.8	6.5	7.2	7.9	8.7	9.5	10.3	11.2	12.3	13.6	15.1	17.0	19.5	22.9
43	110	1.1	2.2	3.2	4.0	4.9	5.6	6.3	7.0	7.7	8.5	9.2	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.2	14.7	16.6	19.1	22.5
49	120	1.1	2.1	3.0	3.9	4.7	5.4	6.1	6.8	7.5	8.2	8.9	9.8	10.7	11.7	12.9	14.4	16.2	18.6	22.0

The values shown in the table above represent moisture content of wood in %

through walls, roofs, ceilings, or subfloors. Excess moisture migrating into floor coverings can significantly affect performance. That is true for wood floors, carpet, tile and even LVT floor coverings.

Moisture-related issues typically present in two ways. First, dimensional changes occur as wood absorbs or loses moisture, leading to shrinking, warping, cupping, buckling, or delamination. Second, when wood moisture content exceeds 16%, or when relative humidity remains above 60% for extended periods, conditions become favorable for mold growth.

Spores, the start of any mold colony are present anywhere. If enough humidity is available, spores will start to develop into mold. Therefore, conditions which favor mold growth have to be avoided. The only reliable way to prevent mold growth is to keep moisture levels below the critical 60% RH threshold.

*continued...*

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High or low humidity conditions may result from extreme outdoor weather, poor building design, or moisture intrusion through roofs, walls that are not constructed to code, or subfloors emitting excess moisture into the flooring systems. This is to be prevented

for any wood floors, carpets, tiles and even LVT floors

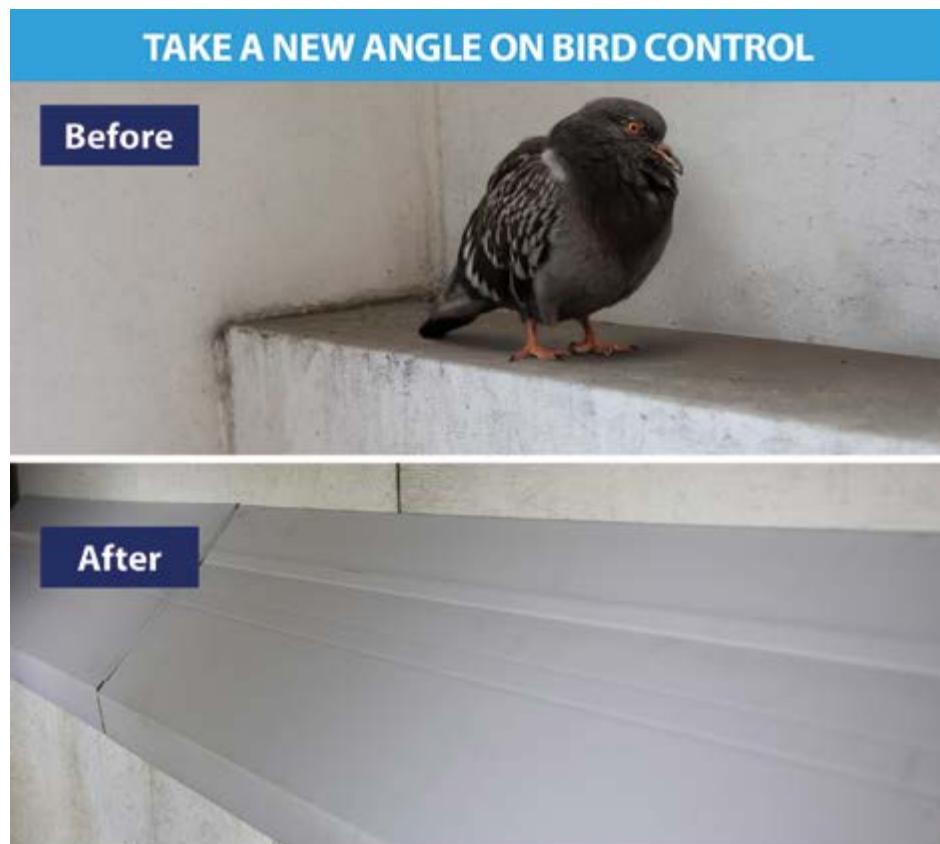
Early detection of these issues is possible through the use of moisture meters and hygrometers. In large building envelopes,

where moisture problems can originate from many locations, having a versatile moisture measurement system is essential. Lignomat's moisture and humidity measuring kits with Ligno-VersaTec allow users not only to identify moisture problems early but also to trace them back to their source—even through walls that are five inches thick or more.

These tools can be your secret weapon in preserving the natural beauty of flooring on campus and keeping buildings safe and healthy as well. The advantages are clear—protecting your floors is more sustainable and helps private universities and colleges avoid the hassle, waste and expense of replacing flooring.

#### **Understanding the EMC Chart**

The Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) chart (see page 15) illustrates the relationship between relative humidity and wood moisture content. Following is an example how that chart can be helpful to predict wood moisture changes: If a wood floor is installed at 6% moisture content and the building's relative humidity rises to 60%, the floor will gradually absorb moisture until it reaches approximately 11% moisture content. Depending on the wood species, this increase can cause significant dimensional changes. When hundreds of boards expand side by side, the cumulative effect may lead to floor buckling. On the other hand, if conditions persist, there is a danger of potential mold growth.



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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Founded in 1979, Lignomat designs precision moisture meters, kiln controls, and wireless monitoring solutions for wood, concrete, and humidity helping professionals prevent moisture damage with trusted German engineering and U.S.-built innovation.

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# UNIVERSITY CAMPUS EXPANSION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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 fulfill the architect's design vision, and then the installer worked closely with us to make sure everything was installed executed properly.”



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**Hope's® Windows, Inc.**, is a business based on 100 percent customized work design and manufacturing. Hope's provides a specialized skillset to assist clients in design and production of unique window and door assemblies. Meeting the expectations of Layton Construction in combination with the aesthetic vision of the client and architect was definitely a challenge. The overall experience was a testament to the quality standards of the university and an honor to be a part of. In business since 1912, Hope's had the global experience to make it happen.

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PHOTOS: Steve Hall, © Hall + Merrick Photographers



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# Keep Water Features Working

**SMART CHOICES IN PUMPS AND FILTRATION**

BY ATLANTIC OASE

Water features should be the focal point of the spaces they occupy on your

campus, but maintaining them should not occupy an inordinate amount

of staff time or labor. While nothing is maintenance free, well-designed

pump and filtration systems can make the difference between a working,

beautiful fountain or waterfall and an unsightly, dried-up hole.

*continued...*



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Pumps and filters must first and foremost deliver the performance required over the long haul, and products with a proven track record are a must. They must be both reliable and predictable, with well-defined requirements for upkeep and scheduled replacement of consumables. Sustainability is also a concern: excessive, inordinate use of water or power will not be overlooked for long. Finally, the equipment chosen has to be affordable, both to purchase initially and more importantly, to operate. Hidden or exorbitant operating costs have been the demise of many a beautiful feature.

Water features can be grouped into two categories, each of which uses different types of equipment. Ponds, streams and falls require pumps that deliver high volumes of water at low pressure. It actually costs far less to deliver high volume than to create high pressure, so high volume/low pressure pumps keep operating costs per unit volume as low as possible. “Pond pumps” also need to be able to pick up solid wastes without clogging and deliver them to filtration systems for easy removal of organics and nutrients, which will control algae and submerged vegetation.

The global leader in water feature equipment, Oase, has been delivering water wherever needed since 1949. Oase’s AquaMax pond pumps are specifically designed to provide high flows at a very low cost of operation and to deliver organic wastes to sophisticated, automated filtration systems. The top of the line, AquaMax Eco Expert 220-volt brushless DC pumps, have advanced features that greatly enhance performance while minimizing upkeep. The larger units are both powerful and efficient, capable of moving 11,000 gallons per hour for 700 watts; these also have built-in variable speed control to adjust output and reduce electrical consumption.

All are truly “smart” pumps. Environmental Function Control senses water level and shuts the pumps down before overfilling can cause damage. Seasonal Flow Control automatically senses temperature and lowers both flow and power draw as weather gets colder and the need for circulation decreases. They are also frost-protected down to -4°F, avoiding costly damage if they are not winterized.

Fountains, on the other hand, require pumps that deliver high pressure rather than high volume. High pressure is required to force water through the small orifices of fountain heads and will typically require more power than a high-volume pump. These pumps have small-screened prefilters on their intakes to avoid picking up debris that might clog fountain nozzles.

Just as the AquaMax line is designed for ponds, Oase Aquarius pumps are custom built for fountain use. Boasting similar output and laudable efficiency, they are equipped with a Dynamic Function Control switch that varies the flow

*continued...*



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instantaneously to create dancing water effects—Bellagio on a button. They too feature Environmental Function Control to shut them off if water level drops and feature frost protection down to -4°F.

Oase filtration products are similarly full featured, offering guaranteed water quality and a choice of semi- and fully automatic models. At the most advanced level, ProfiClear filtration operates fully autonomously, removing suspended solids down to 60 microns, converting toxins in the water to harmless compounds, documenting cleaning cycles and monitoring temperature. If desired, these filters can even generate reports and deliver them to the appropriate maintenance facility.

Perhaps the most useful feature for those responsible for maintaining water features is the Oase Control system. Pumps and other equipment such as filters and lights can be cabled together and controlled remotely via a Wi-Fi application, on site or off. In addition to the full range of pump controls, including a choice of patterns for fountain displays, Oase Control also interfaces with filters and lights. Oase ProfiClear filtration can be set up to be fully automatic—with no input needed from an operator—using sensors that directly gauge when the filter needs cleaning or backwashing, by time interval or by manual intervention.

For displays that last into the evening, Oase ProfiClear Lighting offers control of fully submersible RGB LED lights, with each light individually programmable. Color, intensity, color-changing patterns, and periods of operation can be set for each light or create groups of lights that all work together simultaneously without any specialized equipment or interface other than a smartphone or tablet.

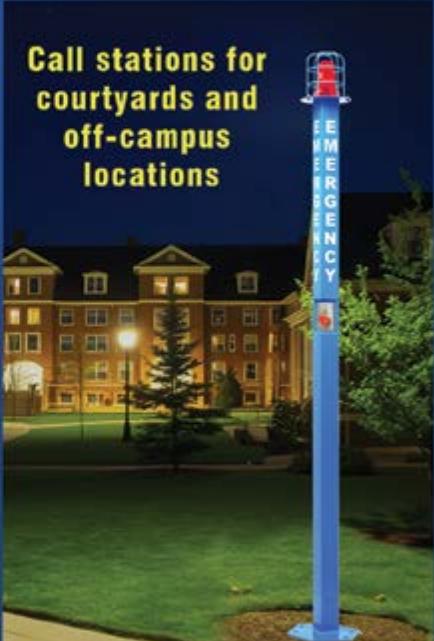
Creating a water feature that remains as beautiful and dependable as the day it was installed comes down to smart choices in equipment and control. When pumps, filters, and lighting are engineered for efficiency, durability, and ease of use, maintenance shifts from a constant challenge to a

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manageable, predictable routine. Thoughtful design paired with proven technology not only protects the investment made in a pond, stream, or fountain, it ensures that the feature continues to perform flawlessly, season after season.

With the right tools behind the scenes, water features can do what they were meant to do: provide focal points of movement, sound, and life, without demanding more care than they give back in enjoyment.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Atlantic-Oase is a global leader in water features, uniting the innovation of Oase and Atlantic Water Gardens. We design and deliver world-class fountains, pumps, filtration, and hardscape solutions—backed by unmatched quality, service, and support worldwide.

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# Sure Footing

**CARPET MATS MAKE CAMPUS BUILDINGS SAFER AND HEALTHIER**

BY NEW PIG

When students enter an athletic building, dining hall, or laboratory, the humble floor mat is probably the last thing they notice. Facility managers, though, know these unassuming mats represent accident prevention, the capture of dirt and debris before it spreads throughout a building, and the protection of valuable flooring beneath. They are secret weapons in silent battles against slips, falls, and floor damage.

*continued...*



We talked with New Pig, a leading manufacturer of mats and a wide range of other products to manage leak and spill control, about the role mats can play on college campuses, strategic placement, and proper maintenance.

**Why are carpet mats a crucial component of flooring safety in higher education facilities, and how do they contribute to accident prevention?**

When Liberty Mutual Insurance created its 2024 Workplace Safety Index—listing the top 10 causes of the most serious workplace injuries—falls on the same level (cost per year: \$9.99B) came in at number two. slip and trip without a fall (cost per year: \$2.34B) came in at number seven. Carpeted mats go a long way toward preventing these serious accidents.

There are two contributing factors to safety with carpeted mats: (1) capture and contain moisture and debris and (2)

to ensure they are maintained properly to not contribute to slip, trip, and falls. Ultimately, accident prevention is more than selecting the appropriate matting solution, it is also defining an intentional program around placement, inspection, and maintenance.

**What are the best placement strategies for entrance mats, and how can facility managers ensure they are effectively reducing dirt and moisture in high-traffic areas?**

If you notice water or debris spreading beyond your entrance mats, it may be time to reassess whether your walk-off area is long enough. Look for high-risk zones where slips, trips, and falls are common, especially areas with poor traction or surface contaminants. Pay attention to moisture control, traffic patterns, and review safety logs regularly to identify problem spots and keep your facility cleaner.

**How should facility managers evaluate the specific needs of different campus buildings when selecting carpet mats and flooring solutions?**

There are new technologies around creating safe walkways depending on the challenge you are looking to address and the aesthetic goal. Balancing form and function can be important in campus buildings. Some areas may need mats that absorb moisture, while others require better traction. It's also important to think about how the mats will be cleaned and whether they meet performance standards for the building's specific needs.

**What role do seasonal weather conditions play in the selection and placement of mats, and how can facilities adapt to ensure year-round safety?**

It is important to think through seasonal



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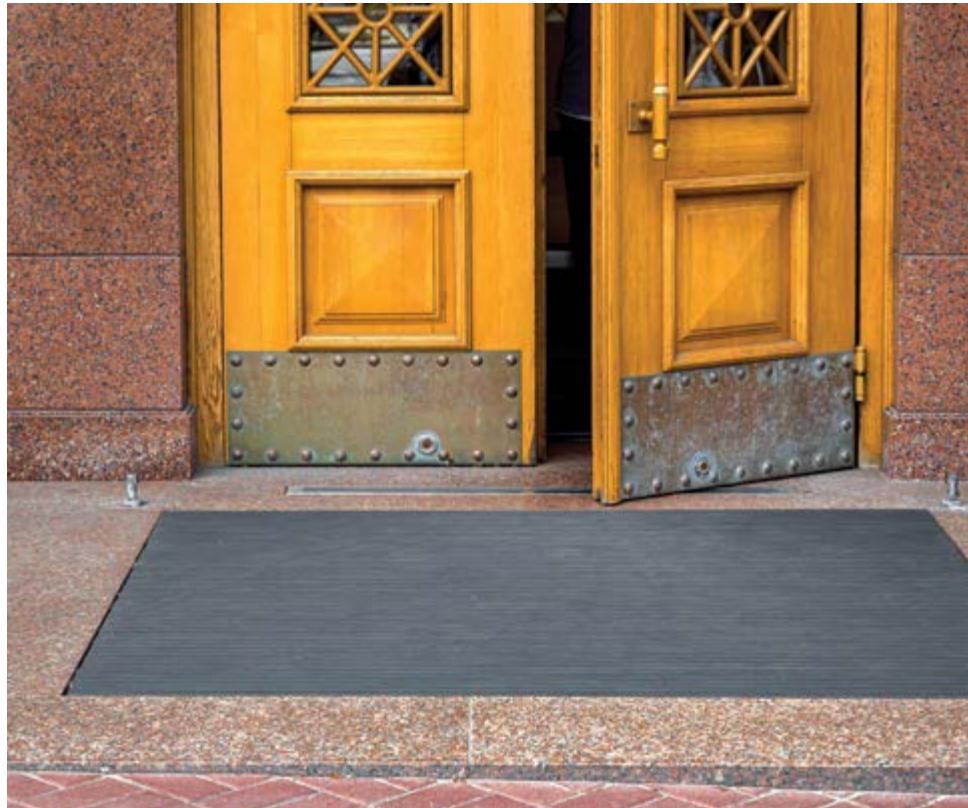
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requirements or inclement weather response to matting. Increasing walk off areas, performing more frequent inspections, and the use of blowers/dryers can help with handling additional environmental challenges. Use of tools like wet floor signs are also helpful to increase caution during challenging seasons or unexpected weather events.

**How can carpet mats improve indoor air quality and reduce maintenance costs across a multi-building campus?**

Carpet mats can trap a surprising amount of dirt, dust, and debris, helping prevent airborne particles and keeping contaminants from spreading through a facility. But to stay effective, mats must be cleaned or replaced regularly; otherwise, they can re-release allergens and particulates back into the air. According to ISSA, cleaning just one pound of dirt from a modern building can cost over \$600.

*continued...*



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That's why stopping dirt at the door isn't just about safety—it's a smart way to cut maintenance costs and improve indoor air quality.

**How often should facility managers inspect and replace mats to maintain safety and prevent liability issues?**

Building a program around matting and floor safety is incredibly important. Regular visual inspections to ensure that matting is placed in your identified risk zones, appropriately sized for necessary walk off, and in good working order are extremely important. The key words are place, inspect, and maintain. Audit your walkways, engage your team, cover your entrances, map out your mats and select the right mats for each area. If you are renting mats and/or outsourcing your floor maintenance, it's time to get involved with your vendors. Ensure they are

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placing mats according to your plan and train employees to inspect and reposition as needed.

**What considerations should be made for specialized areas such as laboratories, dining halls, and athletic facilities when selecting flooring and matting?**

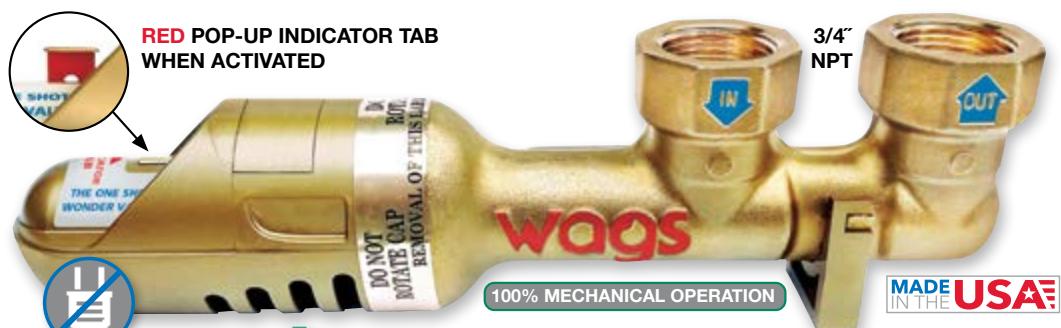
Chemical compatibility, cleaning methods, wet or dry applications, foot and wheel traffic, and intended purpose are all important considerations. Laboratories could use items like anti-fatigue mats in areas of standing workstations; Sticky Shoe Cleaning Mats, ideal to prevent dirt and particle tracking; and signage mats that can be used for an absorbent solution plus identification in areas like eye wash stations, emergency showers, or for PPE reminders. Athletic facilities can use anything from rubber-backed matting, Grippy® Adhesive-Backed Mats, PIG® Anti-Slip Drainage Mat Roll, to traction

*continued...*



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solutions like PIG® HoofTrax™ Adhesive-Backed Runners. Cafeterias could use products like Grippy® Adhesive-Backed Mats or rubber-backed matting on student facing areas and have kitchen solutions like Pig Commercial Kitchen Rubber Drainage Mat or PIG® HoofTrax™ Adhesive-Backed Runners.

**How can branding and aesthetics be incorporated into matting solutions without compromising safety and functionality?**

There are several options for logo rugs as well as new technologies such as the PIG® Custom Printed & Logo Adhesive-Backed Grippy® Floor Mat which allow custom printing of images and designs while maintaining absorbency, cleanability, and both wet & dry COF (coefficient of friction) at affordable prices. If absorbency is not a factor, there are clear Non-Slip Adhesive-Backed Runner solutions

that are ASTM tested wet or dry to be “extremely low slip risk.” These offer minimal visual impact on the flooring.

**What emerging technologies or innovations in flooring safety should facility managers be aware of when upgrading their campus infrastructure?**

Many of the specific product options we just talked about represent innovations in flooring safety, which is exciting. In addition, there are floor treads and tapes as well as signs that can help keep floors safer, and floor cleaning and repair products to maintain floors while protecting employees and students from slip-and-fall hazards.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** New Pig is the world's #1 trusted brand for leaks, drips, and spills—helping colleges and universities keep campuses safe, clean, and compliant with smart, reliable solutions. With expert support and products that work, we help facilities teams focus less on messes and more on what matters most: students and learning.

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# Key Control Strategies

**FOR A SECURE, COST-EFFICIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE FLEET**

BY TRICIA BUTLER

University fleets play a pivotal role in campus operations. Whether a vehicle

transports students to and from campus, carries equipment for facility

maintenance, or enables faculty and staff to attend off-campus events,

each one is valuable both in purpose and replacement cost.

*continued...*

However, managing fleets comes with significant challenges—particularly in terms of security, rising costs, and sustainability. Here are some ways campuses can dramatically improve university fleet operations through a relatively simple

strategy: implementing an effective key management plan.

### Security

Failing to properly secure vehicle keys is a major risk. For example, if a fleet

department stores keys on a pegboard or in a basic lockbox, anyone who accesses the area can easily remove a key, regardless of if they're authorized to do so, and access a fleet vehicle.

Unauthorized use of fleet vehicles not only interferes with routine university operations but also increases the institution's liability risk. For example, someone recklessly driving a branded university vehicle puts others at risk and endangers the university's reputation. In addition, if the vehicle is involved in an accident, it can lead to higher insurance costs and pose legal risks, especially if the university's key control practices are inadequate.

### Key Control Strategies

- **Secure Keys Properly:** Instead of a pegboard or lockbox, fleet managers should consider an electronic key management system that secures all keys in tamper-proof steel drawers or solid wall-mounted panels that lock down each key individually. Key control technology enhances security by restricting access to authorized personnel only, reducing the risks and costs associated with misplaced or stolen keys and vehicles.
- **Automatically Authenticate Drivers:** A key control system should require drivers to scan a fingerprint, enter a PIN, or swipe a card to gain access to keys.
- **Enable Security Alerts:** A system should be able to alert managers in real time via text or email if someone tries to take a key without proper authorization or fails to return a key within a specific time frame. These measures help ensure immediate action in the event of unauthorized key access, encourage employees to practice good stewardship of keys, and protect the university from liability.

### Rising Costs

Tens of thousands of dollars go toward modifications, maintenance, fuel, and more over the course of a vehicle's fleet life.

*continued...*

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Fleet managers are tasked with achieving readiness rates year in and year out as costs climb and budgets shrink.

If an institution is operating on a limited budget, there's no room for inefficiency. When evaluating cost-saving measures, eliminating time-consuming manual key control processes is a good place to start. This issue alone wastes valuable resources, from lost productivity to key replacement costs. A process that requires someone to manually sign keys in or out delays staff or faculty getting the vehicles they need. That's not to mention the interruptions throughout the fleet manager's day when they need to check a key in or out. Errors or omissions on the key log lead to further complications.

Another significant source of cost inefficiencies is maintenance, which is only compounded by supply chain challenges. To extend vehicle lifespans and avoid *continued...*

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costly repairs, timely maintenance is crucial. Inadequate maintenance drives up costs as over-worked vehicles face emergency roadside repairs or pricey part replacements.

Monitoring a fleet's high-use vehicles is a priority since they often require the most maintenance. However, it's important not to forget vehicles that tend to stay on the lot. When vehicles are stagnant, tires can rot, batteries can degrade, fuel can go bad, and fluid leaks can develop.

#### Key Control Strategies

- **Digitize Key Logs:** To save time and ensure an accurate key log, electronic key control systems can automatically record who took a key, when, and why. With accurate key logs, fleet managers are better equipped to right-size the fleet, maintain timely maintenance schedules, and achieve a high readiness rate.

- **Enter Vehicle Mileage Upon Key Return:** Key control systems can prompt users to enter mileage when they return a key, helping fleet managers streamline maintenance schedules. Managers can then review daily reports to find discrepancies and track maintenance.
- **Review Key Activity Logs to Identify Under- or Overutilization:** The data key control systems generate, such as usage patterns and mileage records, helps inform decision making. By having access to detailed reports, fleet managers can make strategic choices regarding budget allocation, maintenance schedules, and vehicle assignments.
- **Reserve Keys When Vehicles Are Due for Maintenance:** When a vehicle is approaching a mileage milestone, fleet managers can reserve that key to temporarily remove the vehicle from rotation.

#### Sustainability

Universities rely heavily on their fleets for various functions. However, excessive use increases fuel consumption, which not only strains the university's budget but also contributes to higher carbon emissions, amplifying the institution's environmental impact.

Unnecessary use also accelerates wear and tear on vehicles, reducing their overall lifespans. Addressing these sustainability challenges is difficult if drivers put "mystery miles" on vehicles, using them without permission or for unauthorized reasons.

#### Key Control Strategies

- **Track Key Usage Patterns to Optimize Utilization:** Key control systems' ability to automatically record who took a key, when, and why provides a comprehensive overview of fleet utilization. With this data, fleet

*continued...*

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Karen Sato, Gavilan College, Gilroy, CA

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**Clarify with Vantage Poly-A Clarifying Tablets.** This unique and powerful tablet water clarifier is not just to clear up cloudy water after a long weekend. As a maintenance product, it works with your filtration system to remove organic and inorganic compounds to prevent dull and cloudy water.

## SANITIZE with the **ACF Series**

### Calcium Hypochlorite Tablet Feeders

- Safer than liquid systems
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- Unique tablet clarifier
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managers can allocate resources efficiently to achieve sustainability objectives and foster responsible fleet management practices.

- **Review Mileage History to Identify Wasteful Use:** By enabling precise tracking of fleet keys, electronic key control helps reduce wasteful fleet use. Fleet managers can detect mystery miles by comparing mileage accrued on a vehicle against the checkout reason provided.
- **Assign Vehicles Based on Job Roles to Conserve Resources:** To prevent unnecessary wear and tear on vehicles and reduce fuel emissions, fleet managers can restrict access to certain vehicles based on job roles. For example, a recruiter would be able to check out a fuel-efficient sedan but not a van.

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Using technology to improve key management empowers fleet managers to enhance campus safety, optimize operations for better cost control, and promote responsible resource management. With effective key control, university fleets can continue to drive campus operations forward for years to come.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Tricia Butler is a Senior Field Manager with KeyTrak, Inc. For over two decades, she has helped some of the largest higher education campuses across the western U.S. minimize key management risks and operate more efficiently.

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# Introducing the Game-Changer: Recruiter2™ Wood Sport Lockers

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## *Modern Luxury, Imagine the Impact*

These beauties boast sleek, modern contour edges and convenient features. Picture a luxurious, modern locker room – a true testament to your commitment to your players. The Recruiter2™ lockers deliver this upscale look at a very competitive price.

## *Built to Last, Crafted with Care*

These lockers are handcrafted using top-of-the-line furniture-grade plywood, ensuring they stay beautiful for years to come. Expertly assembled with state-of-the-art equipment, they arrive ready to install.

## *Personalize Their Space*

Enhance the player experience with a variety of custom accessories. List Industries' experts will guide you through the entire process, from initial design to project completion.

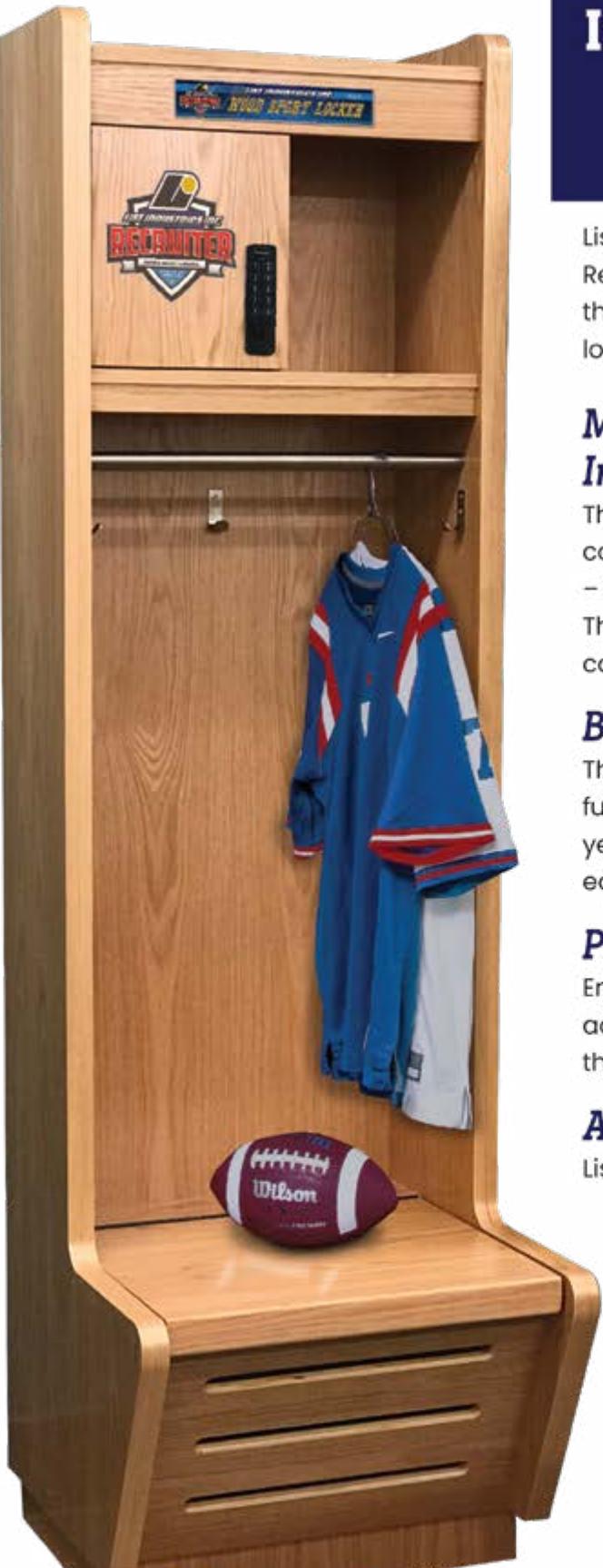
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 **LIST INDUSTRIES INC.**

# BUYER'S GUIDE

# 2026

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## ADA COMPLIANCE

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[www.aquacreekproducts.com](http://www.aquacreekproducts.com)

A leader in all things recreation, fitness, and ability, Aqua Creek Products is a family-owned business based in Missoula, Montana. For the last two decades, Aqua Creek has strived to improve the lives of people of all abilities by providing access to life-changing recreational and fitness activities with unique, high-quality, and affordable equipment. Aqua Creek offers pool lifts with more color options than any other pool lift manufacturer in the business, in addition to the only solar-powered pool lifts on the market today. Other products include therapeutic and exercise equipment such as pool bikes, aquatic wheelchairs and walkers, swim platforms, and even a land-based fitness machine designed to empower wheelchair users to work out independently. For exceptional customer service and the best warranties in the industry, call Aqua Creek today!

### AQUATIC ACCESS

[www.aquaticaccess.com](http://www.aquaticaccess.com)

Aquatic Access offers a full line of water-powered lifts for in-ground pools and spas, above-ground pools and spas, portable spas, swim spas, and for most whirlpool, therapy, or rehabilitation tubs and pools, including those consisting of six-foot walls. We also build lifts for boats, docks, and cruise ships to provide access to pools and spas.

## AQUATIC FACILITIES

### NATARE CORPORATION

[www.natare.com](http://www.natare.com)

Natare is one of the world's most respected stainless steel pool manufacturers and suppliers of custom equipment for commercial swimming pools, water parks, and aquatic centers. We are composed of expert-level professionals that are dedicated to making your project ideas come to life. Whether it's an innovative, multi-purpose aquatic facility, elevated specialty pool, exotic resort pool or unique water feature, we proved unparalleled construction and design methods for projects that would otherwise be too expensive, difficult, or time consuming.

### VANTAGE

[www.vantagewatercare.com](http://www.vantagewatercare.com)

[www.vantagewatercare.com](http://www.vantagewatercare.com)

The Vantage Water Care Program is a comprehensive water maintenance plan designed for commercial pool operators, utilizing chlorination or bromination as its primary sanitation method. The program combines the effective and reliable sanitation properties of chlorine or bromine sanitizers with remarkable clarification properties of a new compound called Poly-A Tablets. These components are added to an overall water management framework that encourages

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES SPOTLIGHT

### SPORTSART AMERICA

[www.gosportsart.com](http://www.gosportsart.com)

SportsArt has been an industry leader in innovative design and manufacturing excellence since 1977. The company is known for advancing industry standards and positioning itself as one of the most creative manufacturers of premium quality fitness, medical, performance, and residential equipment. With its products sold in over 80 countries, SportsArt is one of the largest single-brand manufacturers in the world. SportsArt also contains over 500,000 square feet of state-of-the-art manufacturing space, and it designs, manufactures, and tests all equipment to rigorous TÜV quality standards. With hundreds of patents worldwide for innovative technologies, including the award winning ICARE™ system and the newly relaunched ECO-POWR™ Series that complies with CE and UL certificates, SportsArt is the leading green fitness partner, developing products that are instrumental to rebuilding and sustaining lives.



sparkling clear water. The Vantage Water Care Program gives commercial pools the highest quality water in the most efficient, operator-friendly, and cost-effective program available. This straightforward operation consists of many components. The size and installation of these components are carefully determined according to each pool's specific needs and demands.

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES/SPORTS & FITNESS/ CAMPUS RECREATION

### ASTRA STAGES LLC

[www.astrastages.com](http://www.astrastages.com)

We make big things possible for small events. Astra Stages manufactures affordable, high-quality stages geared toward the first-time buyer, small event production, and small organizations. We believe every event deserves the best presentation, and that our customers deserve a price they can afford!

### A-Turf

[www.aturf.com](http://www.aturf.com)

A Turf fields consistently outperform other brands because every decision and component is driven by quality. This commitment delivers exceptional durability and has made A Turf the first athletic field builder to offer a 12 year warranty based on real world results. A Turf systems feature generous specs, premium materials, professional construction and inspection, superior installation, thorough project management, and responsive post construction support. They also offer the industry's most comprehensive, longest warranty coverage and top safety ratings. A Turf fields are built for hard play and long life, without unreasonable warranty limitations. Paired with an optional Ecore ShockPad, fields achieve shock absorption and safety comparable to perfectly conditioned natural grass, with pads that can last 25+ years and be reused. All A Turf materials are made and assembled in the U.S.A., delivering outstanding long term value for field owners and optimal performance for athletes.

*continued...*

JANUARY 2026

## BISON

[www.ipibybison.com](http://www.ipibybison.com)

IPI by Bison provides ceiling- and wall-mounted basketball backstops, gym divider curtains, batting and practice cages, gym floor covers, wall and stage padding, and a wide selection of gym and field sports equipment for sports-related new construction and renovation projects. For over 40 years, IPI has provided quality gym equipment to schools, recreation centers, churches, health clubs, pay-to-play facilities, YMCAs, and virtually anywhere that indoor team sports are played. In 2012, IPI was acquired by Bison, an industry leader in post-construction, indoor gymnasium, and outdoor field sports equipment. Operating as an independent division of Bison, IPI customers can take advantage of Bison's advanced manufacturing capabilities, extremely diverse product line, and creative product engineering. Located off I-80 in Lincoln, Nebraska, Bison has a longstanding reputation for quality, customer-centric service, on-time delivery, and dedication to creating U.S. jobs by maintaining over 90 percent of its manufacturing in the United States.

## GYMS FOR DOGS

[www.gymsfordogs.com](http://www.gymsfordogs.com)

Elevate your dog play space with dog park products from Gyms For Dogs! We are a manufacturer, distributor, and retailer of intelligently designed, handcrafted, sustainable, and Made in the USA natural Dog Playground Products utilizing

industry best materials to deliver the highest quality Dog Agility Equipment and Dog Exercise Equipment on the market. For more than 20 years, we have developed our unique and custom dog agility equipment and the supplies needed for dog parks, veterinary clinics, kennels, neighborhood parks, doggie daycare centers, animal sanctuaries, HOA's, cities, multi-family housing, zoo parks, and much more!

## KOTOBUKI

[www.kotobuki-international.com](http://www.kotobuki-international.com)

Kotobuki specializes in the design and manufacture of seats and systems for auditoriums, theatres, concert arenas, sporting stadiums and more, with production facilities in the United States and abroad. Looking to the future has allowed Kotobuki to continually improve their processes and designs to create better, safer products. The forefront has always been to provide seating to help create moments that allow communities to come together to cheer on their local sports team, listen to a concert or watch a performance. No matter what the event is, Kotobuki specializes in bringing people together.

## LIST INDUSTRIES INC.

[www.listindustries.com](http://www.listindustries.com)

From initial design to final manufacturing, Superior lockers by List Industries Inc. are engineered using state-of-the-art computer technology, ensuring quality that our customers can

*continued...*

**Building or renovating a gymnasium?**



Call the design experts at IPI by Bison at 800-637-7968 for premium custom ceiling and wall mounted basketball backstops, divider curtains, wall padding and gym accessories.

**IPI by Bison projects include quality Bison sports equipment!**



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Ceiling & Wall Mounted Backstops



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depend on. The uniqueness of our Hollow-T framing system allows us the flexibility to custom design lockers to meet the specific requirements of each project. We welcome the opportunity to work directly with every client to custom design not only a productive and attractive locker room environment, but one that is cost effective. Our results-driven team of designers, engineers, and sales professionals are available to assist customers every step of the way, from initial budget planning to final project closeout.

### **SNA SPORTS**

[www.snasportsgroup.com](http://www.snasportsgroup.com)

For nearly four decades, SNA Sports Group has been a trusted leader in basketball and volleyball equipment for high schools, colleges, universities, athletic facilities, and professional teams across the U.S. and internationally. Our products are engineered for performance, durability, and safety—from advanced basketball systems to professional-grade volleyball systems. We also provide athletic facility equipment including custom full-color wall padding, scoring tables, and more. Trusted by championship events like NCAA March Madness and the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, SNA Sports delivers sports equipment that elevates the game at every level.

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[www.sportafence.com](http://www.sportafence.com)

SportaFence® was founded in 2010 after research found there to be no viable solution for high quality portable wheeled fencing. The product was patented in 2017 and has had continued success and growth! SportaFence® is the only patented professional grade wheeled fencing system that enables your facility or field to support baseball or softball regulation field dimensions in a single day. Set-up can take as little as one hour. Most importantly, Sportafence® improves the equity and quality of gameplay for ALL players while also providing the same level of safety as most traditional permanent fencing solutions.

Audio/Acoustics/Auditoriums

### **HUSSEY SEATING**

[www.husseyseating.com](http://www.husseyseating.com)

Hussey Seating transforms your vision into seating solutions that brave the harshest climates, the loudest celebrations, and the biggest crowds. With fixed stadium seating solutions, we blend comfort, durability, and branded customization to craft a singular experience that keeps fans dialed on the action while keeping stadium owners confident in their investment. Each seat is a lasting invitation to witness history in real time, bridging your architectural ambition with unforgettable, world-class moments. Our approach is simple: you dream it, we design and build it—ensuring every seat meets your exacting standards and fosters the sense of belonging fans crave.

### **SHURE**

[www.shure.com](http://www.shure.com)

Shure has been making people sound extraordinary for nearly a century. Founded in 1925, Shure is a leading global manufacturer of audio equipment known for quality, performance, and durability. We make microphones, wireless

microphone systems, in-ear monitors, earphones and headphones, conferencing systems, and more. For critical listening or high-stakes moments on stage, in the studio, and from the meeting room, you can always rely on Shure.

## **CONSTRUCTION/HVAC**

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[www.bradleycorp.com](http://www.bradleycorp.com)

For more than one hundred years, Bradley has created the most advanced, coordinated commercial washrooms and comprehensive emergency safety solutions, resulting in educational and public environments that are both hygienic and safe. Bradley is dedicated to innovating touchless handwashing and drying technologies that are durable and vandal resistant, and we provide reliable emergency safety and eyewash equipment for science and research labs. Bradley also manufactures washroom accessories, partitions, solid plastic lockers, and electric tankless heaters. Headquartered in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Bradley serves educational, commercial, institutional, and industrial building markets worldwide.

### **CHEROKEE BRICK**

[www.cherokeebrick.com](http://www.cherokeebrick.com)

Founded in 1877, Cherokee Brick has sought product innovation as a professional brick manufacturing company hallmark, continually refining production and laying processes to fit and enhance nearly any application. Today, we manufacture over 100 different varieties from our Georgia and Mississippi plants. Our capacity has also expanded, allowing us to meet the demands of customers hailing from diverse industries nationwide.

### **CLEARSPAN**

[www.clearspan.com](http://www.clearspan.com)

Over our proud history, ClearSpan has worked on thousands of projects across dozens of industries, providing custom and turnkey building solutions that are both unique and functional. We are renowned for our versatile structures, which have earned the nickname “Buildings of 1,000 Uses.” When purchasing a structure from ClearSpan, our customers can rest assured they will receive the exceptional service that we are known for. Our building specialists have years of experience working within the industry, and they can offer invaluable advice and suggestions throughout the entire building process, ensuring that customers get an ideal structure for their operation.

### **DORLEN PRODUCTS INC.**

[www.wateralert.com](http://www.wateralert.com)

A water leak detection company, Dorlen Products has manufactured surface water leak detection equipment since 1975. Our water leak specialists are dedicated to selling the highest quality, lowest maintenance leak sensors available today. Our leak sensing systems are rugged yet sensitive, and can detect even a thin film of water without false activations. Water Alert leak detection equipment is designed to maximize protection by offering continuous monitoring 24/7. Prior to the occurrence of damage and resulting downtime, our water line leak detection equipment identifies small leaks such as

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condensate water overflow, chiller water leaks, plumbing line cracks, heating/cooling piping leaks, outside seepage, and more. The water detector alarm features vary by model.

## CONSTRUCTION/HVAC SPOTLIGHT

### PVI INDUSTRIES

[www.pvi.com](http://www.pvi.com)



PVI is a leading manufacturer of industry-best commercial and industrial water heaters, each fabricated from corrosion-resistant AquaPLEX® duplex stainless steel. PVI water heaters can be configured for any common energy source, including natural or LP gas, oil, boiler water, solar, steam, electricity, and waste heat. Water heaters range from instantaneous, on-demand water heating to storage water heaters. PVI has installed thousands of systems across the nation throughout a broad range of applications and industries, including universities, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, apartments, correctional facilities, military barracks, and more. PVI proudly backs its water heaters with the industry's strongest warranties and service policy packages.

## ATHLETIC FACILITIES SPOTLIGHT

### HOPES® WINDOWS, INC.

[www.hopeswindows.com](http://www.hopeswindows.com)



Hope's® Windows has been manufacturing the world's finest windows and doors for over a century, beginning with the company's very first order for Cornell University in 1912. Hope's sets the standard for performance excellence. Steel windows and doors offer sustainable solutions to create healthy indoor educational environments. Steel windows and doors are energy efficient and impervious to air and water infiltration, crafted from 100 percent recycled steel, and finished with environmentally friendly coatings. The result is an earth-friendly product with unlimited color options and long-term protection against corrosion and abrasion. Steel finishing processes exceed the most rigorous testing standards and are scrutinized to ensure that products will perform—both aesthetically and functionally—for generations to come, and with extremely low maintenance requirements. Our strong, durable windows and doors achieve unparalleled life cycle value and assist building owners and architects seeking LEED® certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

## CONSTRUCTION/HVAC SPOTLIGHT

### OVERLY DOOR COMPANY

[www.door.overly.com](http://www.door.overly.com)



Overly Door company is a custom specialty door and window manufacturer. Industry-leading architects use our products to achieve the precise specification each facility requires. We provide many "out-of-the-box" solutions for every customer's needs. We also specialize in custom barrier systems. For all standard or custom needs, be sure to specify Overly Door Company.

## HVAC JACK

[www.hvacjack.com](http://www.hvacjack.com)

HVAC Jack is an online supplier of commercial HVAC equipment including the FiDO2 fire damper opener, a tool that makes the process of testing fire dampers as required by NFPA much safer and easier. Our expanding product line includes exhaust fans, gas detection equipment, grilles and diffusers, replacement fan parts, in addition to HVAC and ductwork accessories. Our priority is to provide quality products at affordable prices. Most of the items we carry are stocked at our Illinois warehouse for quick turnaround.

## IMETCO METAL PRODUCTS

[www.imetco.com](http://www.imetco.com)

IMETCO (Innovative Metals Company, Inc.) is a leading manufacturer of premier metal products for the building envelope, offering a full range of high-performance metal roofing, wall, deck, and edge systems that provide a virtually limitless realm of aesthetic possibilities. IMETCO's flagship Series 300 standing seam roofing system sets the industry standard for performance.

## KENYON INTERNATIONAL

[www.cookwithkenyon.com](http://www.cookwithkenyon.com)

Kenyon International is a domestic manufacturer of compact ceramic cooktops and the All Seasons™ electric grills available in 120V UL for use both indoors and outdoors. We offer unique and functional designs that incorporate the latest in cooking technology, not least of all the next generation SilKEN®2, a high energy Induction cooktop that provides cooking by temperature or power setting with quick heat dissipation and user-friendly controls. Standard knob or touch control cooktops are available in one or two burners—20, 208, and 240V UL—each with HOT and ON indicator lights. We also offer an exclusive three-year product replacement warranty in addition to unparalleled customer service.

## LEGACY BUILDING SOLUTIONS

[www.legacybuildingsolutions.com](http://www.legacybuildingsolutions.com)

The art of building is an investment, just as it is a direct and visible reflection of our customers' needs and wants. That's why Legacy Building Solutions does what we do—build custom tension fabric buildings that surpass expectations, achieve the

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## The New and Improved Conquest

Re-engineered for peak performance and redefined for savings – the new Conquest water heater delivers maximum efficiency and effortless serviceability, helping you to save more money on installation, maintenance and operation.

- **Greater Energy Savings:** Featuring a newly designed firetube heat exchanger, Conquest boosts thermal efficiency up to 98%, making it one of the most energy-efficient water heaters available.
- **Optimized Pump Placement:** With the pump on the front and side, Conquest provides easier service access and improved reliability.

*The new Conquest.  
Smarter and more efficient than ever.*



highest standards of safety, and last for decades. We were built for this—learn how everything we do, from our proprietary installation process, exclusive EpoxxiShield™ frame finishes, and ExxoTec™ fabric cladding, and incredible team supports your next project.

### SEPCO

[www.sepco.com](http://www.sepco.com)

SEPCO is committed to creating sustainable, energy-efficient campuses through innovative solar LED lighting systems. We help schools and universities transition from traditional energy sources to renewable solutions that enhance safety, reduce costs, and support environmental goals. Our solar lighting systems ensure reliable illumination for pathways, parking lots, signs, kiosks, roadways, entrances, remote spaces, and common areas without dependence on the electrical grid, thereby eliminating blackout concerns and lowering energy expenses by up to 75 percent. By choosing SEPCO, campuses can greatly reduce their carbon footprint while providing a secure and well-lit environment for students, faculty, and visitors. Each system is designed for durability, easy installation, and maintenance-free operation, delivering long-lasting performance that aligns with your institution's sustainability initiatives. Whether you are upgrading existing infrastructure or planning new construction, SEPCO offers dependable solutions that make your campus safer and greener. Contact us today to learn how we can help illuminate your campus with clean, renewable energy.

### SPRUNG STRUCTURES

[www.sprung.com](http://www.sprung.com)

Sprung Structures is a smart alternative for your education and facility needs. From classroom space and dining halls to gymnasiums, greenhouses, administration areas, and more, Sprung provides innovative building solutions that save time and money. Our patented, tensioned membrane structures deliver exceptional cost-efficiency, rapid installation in as little as six months, and clear-span interiors that maximize flexibility. Energy efficient, expandable, and built to last, a Sprung building redefines what's possible in education facility design. Visit our website to learn more.

### ZURN

[www.zurn-elkay.com](http://www.zurn-elkay.com)

Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Zurn Elkay Water Solutions is a growth-oriented, pure-play water business that designs, procures, manufactures, and markets the broadest sustainable product portfolio of solutions to improve health, human safety, and the environment. The Zurn Elkay product portfolio includes professional-grade water control and safety, water distribution and drainage, drinking water, finish plumbing, hygienic, environmental and site works products for public and private spaces.

### FLOORING

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[www.ecoreathletic.com](http://www.ecoreathletic.com)

Ecore was born “green.” From harvesting the benefits of wood without harming trees to now repurposing rubber into high-performance athletic flooring, Ecore has paved the

### FLOORING SPOTLIGHT

#### MUSSON RUBBER

[www.mussonrubber.com](http://www.mussonrubber.com)



For over sixty-five years, Musson Rubber has been a pioneer and leader in the development, manufacturing, and distribution of safety stair coverings and flooring materials. Musson Rubber specializes in stair coverings and entrance matting for commercial, institutional, and industrial use. We provide the most complete and comprehensive line of top-quality rubber and vinyl stair coverings, in addition to entrance mats for use in public buildings. Musson is also a major distributor of industrial rubber products. Representing over one hundred different suppliers in major markets gives Musson the edge in providing competitive products and service in today's demanding environment.

way for creating surfaces that provide exceptional safety, ergonomics, and acoustic benefits for thousands of people interacting with our surfaces every day. Our state-of-the-art equipment produces the cleanest, most consistent, and highest quality rubber materials available on the market. Our sustainable surfaces are the right combination of safety, durability, ergonomic, and acoustic performance athletes need to achieve greatness.

#### FORBO FLOORING SYSTEMS

[www.forboflooringna.com](http://www.forboflooringna.com)

Create beautiful, durable, healthy learning environments with Forbo Flooring Systems. Forbo's Marmoleum Composition Tile (MCT) is made from natural materials that repel dust, making it easier to maintain a healthier environment. Forbo's Flotex Modular Tile combines waterproof, high-performance carpet with the versatility of a modular tile for flooring well-suited for dorms, classrooms, and dining areas.

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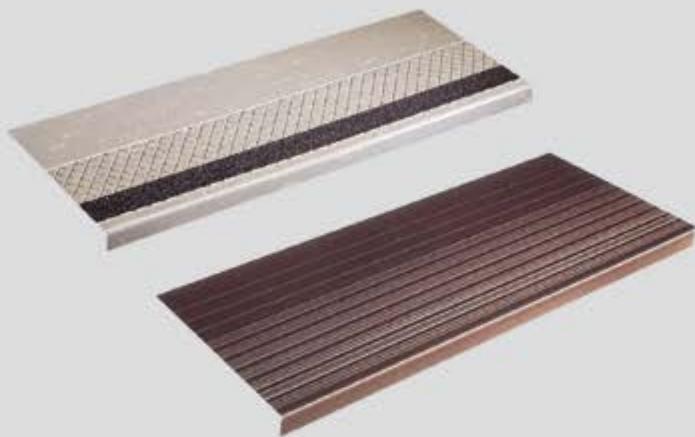
[www.newpig.com](http://www.newpig.com)

New Pig is the number one brand that helps companies to manage leaks, drips, and spills, all of which protect workers, facilities, and the environment. A multi-channel, multi-brand supplier, New Pig provides over 3,100 spill control and liquid management solutions as well as industrial maintenance products. Our products have been used in more than 300,000 industrial, commercial, utility, institutional, healthcare, military and government facilities in seventy countries. The leading New Pig brands include the Original PIG Absorbent Sock, PIG Grippy Floor Mats, PIG Spill Kits, Pig Spillblocker Dikes, and PIG Flammable Safety Cabinets. Other channels offering PIG products include all Safety-Kleen branches, select Integrated Suppliers, and B-to-B E Commerce exchanges. New Pig is headquartered in Tipton, Pennsylvania. Contact us for more information!

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## FURNITURE SPOTLIGHT

### SMARTDESKS

[www.smartdesks.com](http://www.smartdesks.com)



SMARTdesks offers more than just buying computer lab desks or conference tables as a generic commodity. We offer person-to-person design team interaction and collaboration with our customers. Together, project by project, we are shaping conferencing and education for the 21st century. Every space is different: SMARTdesks computer desk, computer lab, and conference table solutions provide a configured solution for every space and need. Clients who are looking for a full-scale classroom, computer lab furniture, or conference room design solution, as opposed to a desk-in-a-box, should think SMARTdesks. Our specialty is designing for each space and pulling together our teams in collaboration with your IT integrators. Using cloud-based technology to exchange ideas, concepts & drawings in a holistic integrated cloud platform, we bring together our teams to reach configured solutions to fit your needs, your space, and your environment.

## FURNITURE

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[www.biofit.com](http://www.biofit.com)

BioFit Engineered Products is a globally renowned designer and manufacturer of LEED-compliant ergonomic seating, GREENGUARD-certified cafeteria tables, book trucks, carts, and specialty products. Headquartered in Bowling Green, Ohio, we've been a furnishing innovator for over 75 years and provide solutions today for some of the most recognized names in science, healthcare, technology, industry, education, business and more. Our products are made to order with user well-being, performance and reliability at the forefront. Thanks to the modular construction of our seating, we can meet nearly any specification, and with our "mychair" online configurator, website visitors can create and request a quote for a model to fit their unique workplace, task and budgetary requirements.

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[www.hustonandcompany.com](http://www.hustonandcompany.com)

Each piece of custom furniture from Huston & Company is designed to enhance the aesthetics of its surroundings. Huston & Company furniture is custom-designed and finished to withstand hard, regular use in public settings such as libraries, academic spaces, and meeting/conference rooms. Each piece of Huston furniture will last for generations and retain its beauty, warmth, and functionality, in turn providing schools, libraries, or offices with longevity that equates to real value.

### INTERKAL, LLC

[www.interkal.com](http://www.interkal.com)

Interkal is an industry leading manufacturer of telescopic bleachers and fixed seating products, based in Kalamazoo, MI.

Interkal offers a wide selection of spectator seating options ranging from the Excel Seat Module and VISION Platform Chair to the AURA Slat Stadium Chair and AURA Solid Stadium Chair. In 2023, Interkal introduced the luxurious and ergonomic Odyssey Auditorium Chair, an ideal audience seating choice for any theater or performing arts center. With experience in K-12 gymnasiums, collegiate and university field houses and stadiums, in addition to professional sporting facilities and arenas, Interkal is committed to providing innovative design solutions catered to each individual facility's needs.

### MARCO GROUP

[www.madebymarco.net](http://www.madebymarco.net)

For over 25 years, we've been more than a furniture manufacturer—we're a team of makers, problem-solvers, and do-the-right-thing kind of people. We build American-made products that move, adapt, and hold up to the real pace of education. From classrooms to commons, libraries to band rooms, we design with purpose and build with pride—so every space we touch helps learning take shape.

## LABORATORIES

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### LABCONCO

[www.labconco.com](http://www.labconco.com)

Serving the scientific community since 1925, Labconco Corporation manufactures laboratory equipment, specializing in ventilation products such as chemical fume hoods and biological safety cabinets. Other product lines include freeze dryers and glassware washers. Labconco has ISO 9001 certification, which stands as but one measure of its commitment to quality and consistency in design and manufacturing. Manufactured in Kansas City, Missouri, and in Fort Scott, Kansas, Labconco products are marketed worldwide to academic, industrial, life science, pharmaceutical, environmental, forensic, and clinical laboratories.

## LANDSCAPING/OUTDOOR AMENITIES

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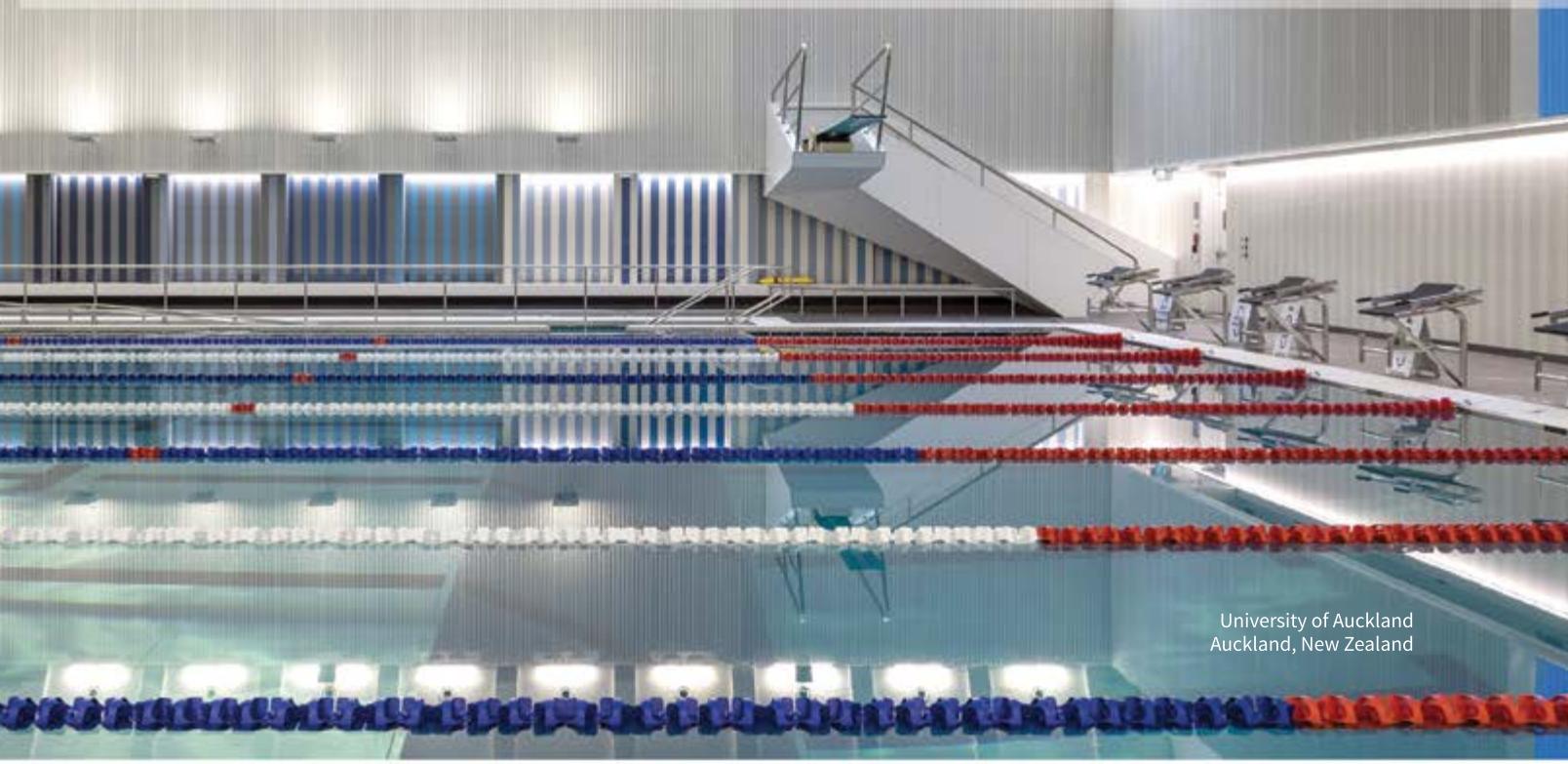
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### **DR POWER**

[www.drpowers.com](http://www.drpowers.com)

We have manufactured and sold professional-grade outdoor power equipment since 1985. From our earliest days at our headquarters in a Vermont log cabin, we have dedicated ourselves to creating equipment of enduring quality and uncompromising performance. We believe that every minute spent working outdoors can be more productive, enjoyable, and satisfying when people have the right tools. Today, DR Power Equipment is a subsidiary of Generac Power Systems, Inc., and we offer an extensive line of gas and battery-powered equipment available factory-direct or through our growing family of retail partners. Regardless of where DR Power equipment is purchased, customers can be assured of our commitment to service after the sale.

### **GRASSHOPPER MOWERS**

[www.grasshoppermower.com](http://www.grasshoppermower.com)

At Grasshopper Mowers, we offer high-quality, American-made, family-owned brand of commercial-grade riding lawnmowers, known for their durable True ZeroTurn™ technology, innovative features like PowerFold decks, and exceptional cut quality, designed for professionals and serious homeowners. Manufactured by The Grasshopper Company in Moundridge, Kansas, we offer both front-mount and mid-mount options with powerful engines, durable components, and versatile attachments for comprehensive turf maintenance.

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Kay Park Recreation has been a manufacturer of commercial outdoor furniture since 1954. We offer a large selection of park and playground equipment as well as commercial grade site furnishings that include outdoor tables, grills, benches, trash containers, drinking fountains, planters, umbrellas, bollards, shade canopies, and bike racks. We have a complete line of bleachers and grandstands, as well as outdoor athletic equipment, play systems, and a rental-duty fiberglass pedal boat. Please browse through our selection at our website, and we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.

### **POLY GRATE**

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Chase Security Systems, Inc. specializes in the design and manufacture of wire and flat metal products. We custom design and manufacture a variety of products for the life/safety, security, fire, sound and communication, and electrical industries. Our products include wire guards, expanded metal guards, security pedestals, perforated metal guards, hoods, towers, cameras and enclosures, projection screen guards, and microphone and conference system enclosures. Our wire enclosures are designed to protect thermostats, strobes, switches, and other devices against vandalism or accidental damage. The wire enclosure provides ease of installation and maintenance of equipment. Our wire products are manufactured in a variety of sizes, styles, and finishes, and sold to OEM accounts and distribution. We offer expanded metal guards for smoke detectors, speakers, bells, strobes, wall-mounted movie projectors, and interior lights.

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[www.thorguard.com](http://www.thorguard.com)

Thor Guard is the leader in lightning prediction and is committed to maximizing emergent technologies in the development of systems that provide automatic notification of hazardous weather conditions. Thor Guard uses a highly sophisticated sensor and computer to measure and analyze the electrostatic field in the atmosphere. Lightning originates within this field, and Thor Guard makes calculations predicting its occurrence even though there may be no visible evidence of lightning. Lightning detection systems require the occurrence of an actual lightning strike before a warning is given, and many such warnings are too late. For these reasons, multiple airlines, government agencies, and other industrial users have adopted Thor Guard.

### **UNIFIED SOLUTIONS LLC**

<https://unifiedsolutions-ps.com>

Unified Solutions LLC is a leader in sales and service of voice and data recording solutions throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. Unified Solutions LLC has over

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### **VIKING ELECTRONICS**

[www.vikingelectronics.com](http://www.vikingelectronics.com)

Viking Electronics designs and manufactures over five hundred security and communication products, including aging interfaces, amplifiers, mass notification systems, hot line phones, auto dialers, enclosures, and more. In addition to our extensive analog line, we offer a large selection of IP-based solutions. Viking's VoIP products are SIP compliant, with features such as built-in relays and automatic noise canceling. We are continually developing new ideas using the latest technology to expand our product lines. As always, Viking products are designed, manufactured, and supported in the U.S. and are backed by a two-year limited warranty. Since Viking's origins in 1969, we've encouraged our customers to "Call Us First." So, the next time you're wondering if we design a product for a particular application, don't hesitate to call—and if we don't design it, we'll do our best to direct you to someone who does!

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PRODUCT VIDEO



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## MAINTENANCE

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## MAINTENANCE SPOTLIGHT

### AGF MANUFACTURING INC.

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foodservice equipment like hot cabinets, ovens, and racks, focusing on reliability, efficiency, and labor savings for multiple service industries. We are known for high-quality, American-made products, including specialty items for fire/EMS decontamination, offering robust solutions for heating, holding, cooking, and transporting food, with a strong emphasis on customer service and innovation.

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Franmar's mission is simple: to create safer products that really work. Franmar is a family-owned manufacturer in the Illinois heartland, founded by Frank and Marilyn Sliney. For more than 40 years, we have developed formulas that harness the power of soybeans rather than relying on acetone, mineral spirits, or other petrochemicals. The Franmar team shares your concerns about these chemicals, and we believe everyone should be able to do their job or enjoy their hobbies without harming the environment or risking their health. Soy-based solvents are an ideal alternative to many hazardous chemicals because they can easily penetrate coatings, adhesives, grease, asphalt and more, all without noxious odors or side effects.

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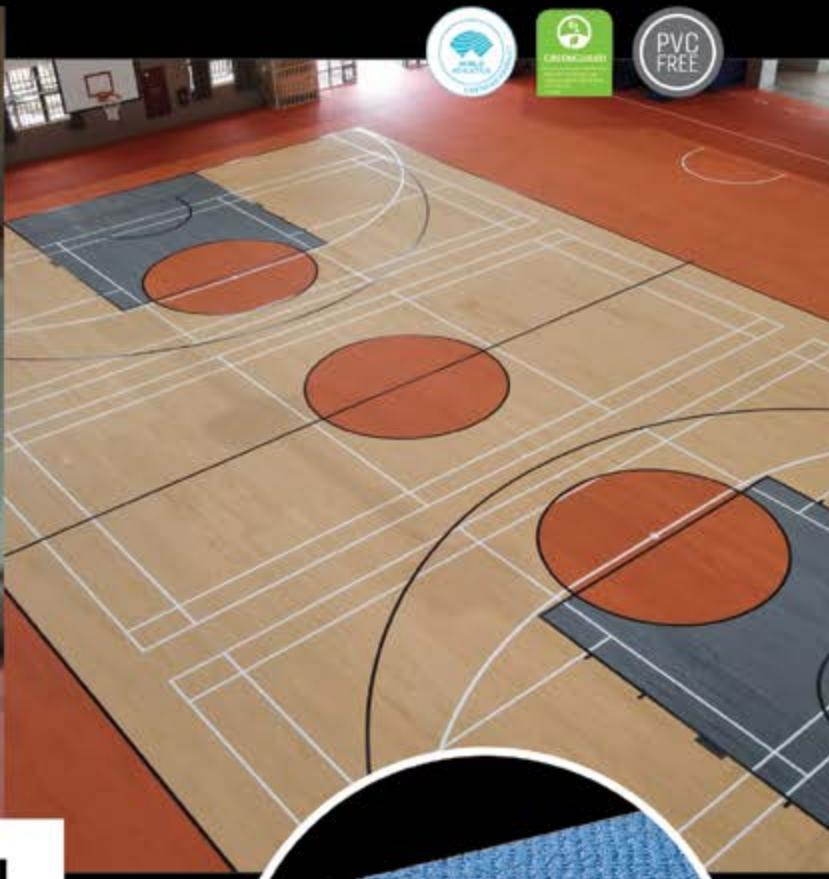
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### GREASE LOCK

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Compliance Starts at the Hood with Grease Lock®. Grease Lock is your first line of defense for kitchen exhaust safety and efficiency. Engineered with all-natural, sustainable, heat-resistant fiber, this patented system captures and removes a high percentage of grease particulate emissions before they enter the ductwork. Tested to meet NFPA standards and UL1046 protocol, Grease Lock delivers code-compliant performance you can trust. Its disposable filter pad and stainless-steel frame provide effective grease filtration with minimal airflow resistance, keeping your exhaust system safe and efficient. By reducing hood cleaning frequency, Grease Lock saves time, labor, and thousands of gallons of grease-laden water and harsh chemicals from entering wastewater streams each year. When fire safety, operational efficiency, and environmental responsibility matter, compliance truly starts at the hood—with Grease Lock.

### LIGNOMAT

[www.lignomatusa.com](http://www.lignomatusa.com)

When needing to determine a wood's moisture content, let Lignomat help. We carry a full line of pin and pin-less moisture meters, meter packages, and related accessories. Our handheld moisture meters are designed for professionals such as architects, building inspectors, carpenters, contractors,

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restoration specialists, as well as other working professionals who need a reliable method of determining moisture levels in wood, sheetrock, gypsum, and other building materials. Each moisture meter measures the material's present moisture levels and determines if the material is ready to use, needs further inspecting, or requires discarding.

## SLOAN

[www.sloan.com](http://www.sloan.com)

Water connects us. Every day around the world, Sloan products connect the systems that manage our planet's most precious resource. As the world's leading manufacturer of commercial plumbing systems, we've spent more than a century pioneering smart, water-saving restroom solutions that are built to last a lifetime.

## TRANSPORTATION

### CAMPUS CRUISER CART

[www.campuscruisercart.com](http://www.campuscruisercart.com)

The Campus Cruiser Cart is a durable utility cart used for move-ins and other campus needs that can fold down to store flat. This cart has taken the industry by storm solving the age-old issue of where to store all your carts after move-in week. One hundred sets can store in about 132 square feet of space.

*continued...*

## TECHNOLOGY ON CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

### LAPTOPS ANYTIME

[www.laptopsanytime.com](http://www.laptopsanytime.com)



Space-saving automated checkout kiosks are custom branded for each facility and designed around major laptop/tablet models in twelve-bay host starter and twelve- and eighteen-bay companion stations. Customers can mix multiple device types in the same system and then smartly deploy multiple systems. Stations are integrated to ILS and/or local LDAP or Active Directory. Additionally, web camera, email notifications, and a full suite of inventory management, audit trail, and management reporting functionality make the system one-of-a-kind. Customers can replace thirty desktops and regain over 150 square feet of comfortable seating as well as decrease power usage by up to 90%. This new multi-use seating can accommodate and still serve those who want a comfortable place to read a book or those who bring their own digital device with them. Those needing a laptop or even a 110V power charger can check out a device at our innovative kiosks and relax in a transformed atmosphere.



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