

Creating Space in the Top of a 3 Story Atrium

University of West Georgia - Technology Enhanced Learning Center (TLC)

The University of West Georgia is one of the University System of Georgia's fastest growing campuses. It is a comprehensive, residential institution providing selectively focused undergraduate and graduate education primarily to Georgia residents. It is one of a few, so-called "robust tier" universities, that offer a wide variety of programs including doctoral degrees. With a growing enrollment, there is always a need to add more space, for not only the students, but the faculty.

UWG's Technology Enhanced Learning Center (TLC) is a state-of-the-art facility central to the university's core curriculum and home to the Chemistry, Computer Science, English, Philosophy, and History Departments, as well as the Writing Center. Every classroom in the TLC building is a "smart" classroom wired for laptops and other smart devices.



Labs and lectures come together to make learning seamless. UWG's Director of Planning and Construction Services, Fred Ricketson, and his team realized they needed to create more faculty space for the Departments of English and Philosophy. But where to do this became a tough question.

UWG hired Pieper O'Brien Herr Architects (POH) to help determine a solution. Having experience working on projects within occupied environments, including complicated infill projects, POH was able to come prepared



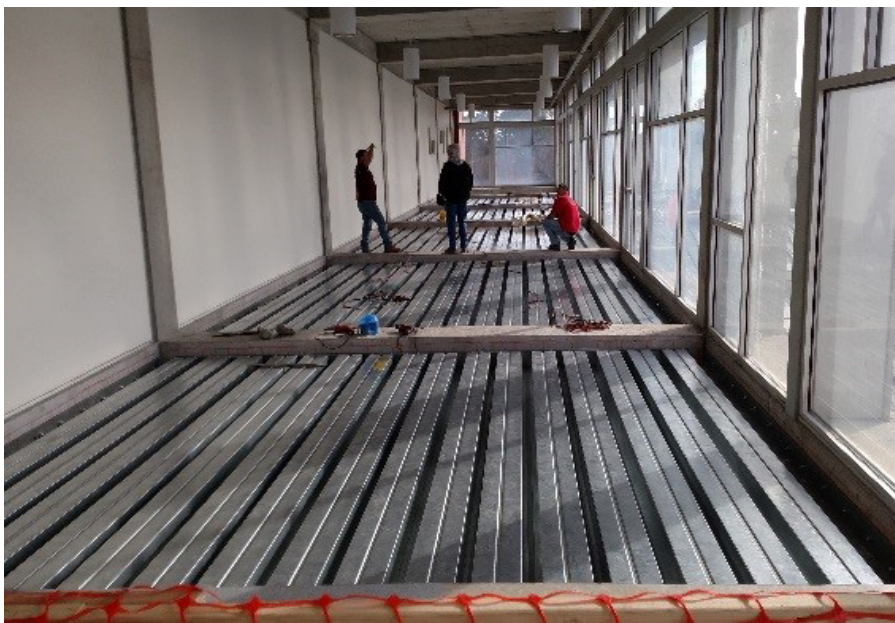
with the skills, knowledge and best practices essential to successfully complete work in high-profile, occupied, and well-trafficked sites. UWG and POH decided to take advantage of the atrium area by infilling the top floor of the three-story building.

This required a well-trained team of experts. Since this was not an ordinary structural flooring solution for the project, it was determined that PES Structural Engineers (PES) would provide the right expertise to complement POH on a challenging design project.

Johnny Hembree, POH Principal and Carmen Banham, POH Interior Project Manager, working closely with UWG Project Manager, Mike Conley, realized there were multiple challenges that had to be taken into consideration.

A main design and construction challenge was how to set and support a new structural floor between existing poured concrete girders, 3-stories high in the atrium space, all the while giving a final appearance that the building had always been planned that way.

A long span Deep-Dek metal composite cellular acoustical panelized system was used to span between the concrete girders and received a concrete topping for the final floor surface.



The contractor, Lovvorn Construction, worked within a specified schedule to performed all of this structural flooring work at night between 10 pm and 6 am to avoid class disruption during the day. Once the structural floor was finished it provided a working platform to complete the balance of the build-out work. The students, faculty and staff didn't miss a beat and classes continued unabated.

The schedule for this build-out project was tight. The design and construction team worked closely with UWG and the end users to devise a schedule that allowed work to be completed

without interrupting operational hours. The project was materially complete in about ninety (90) calendar days after Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor. Eight (8) faculty offices with a conference room at the end of the corridor were occupied by faculty from the Department of English and Philosophy in early May of 2016. The total project cost was \$671,974.00. A variable refrigerant volume (VRV) HVAC system was used and provides each space with greater control of temperature and comfort needs.

Decorative wood ceiling panels and pendant fixtures were hung underneath the metal acoustical decking at the 2nd floor to provide visual interest and lighting. Throughout the corridor along the window wall, bright carpet accents with acrylic ceiling panels in UWG blue and red were used to reinforce UWG brand. Semi-opaque roll down shades were installed to control daylighting.

At the end of the day, all facets of the renovation project were performed with a sharp eye towards safety for the students and staff, improving the strength and stability of the structure, while preserving the fabric of the original TLC Building. The result of this unique renovation project is a building where seamless learning principles are applied but also a facility that was completed through a seamless team delivery.



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