

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's New Academic Building Seeking to be Indiana's First WELL Certified Structure

Design and advanced technologies may earn WELL Certification for enhancing health and well-being through air, water, light, fitness, comfort, and mind features.

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES, August 23, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- [Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's New Academic Building](#) is on track to become Indiana's first construction project to earn WELL Certification for design and technology that enhances the health, wellness and the human experience for the institute's students, faculty and staff.

The 70,000-square-foot, \$29 million building will open Thursday, August 26, with design, fabrication and rapid prototyping areas, classrooms, state-of-the-art chemistry and biochemistry laboratories, a food science research lab, and student-faculty collaborative workspaces – facilities that will affirm Rose-Hulman's leadership role in undergraduate science, engineering and mathematics education.

Advanced technologies accentuating these educational areas have been incorporated inside and outside to achieve WELL Certification, a pioneering building program established by the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI). The performance-based system has criteria about a building's air, water, nourishment, light, fitness, comfort, and mind features that impact human health and well-being.

"Achieving WELL Certification for our New Academic Building will be a significant step forward in



Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's New Academic Building that has new design spaces, chemistry and biochemistry labs, classrooms, a food science lab, and collaborative workspaces.

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology



Achieving WELL Certification for our New Academic Building will be a significant step forward in our long-standing commitment to incorporate sustainability, health and wellness building standards.”

*Robert A. Coons, President,
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech.*

our long-standing commitment to incorporate sustainability, health and wellness building standards across our campus,” said Rose-Hulman President Robert A. Coons. “We are committed to supporting healthy living for our students, faculty and staff and elected to pursue WELL Certification in support of that goal. We want our buildings to be functional, economical and beneficial in enhancing all elements of our education mission.”

The building’s designer, Indianapolis-based RATIO Architects, has incorporated WELL features in other projects within Indiana, but Rose-Hulman’s building is the first to be pursuing the official WELL certification,

according to Sarah Wood, senior associate and director of sustainability with RATIO Architects.

WELL Certification health and wellness features within the New Academic Building include:

Air: Pollutants and chemicals are being limited through a ventilation system that utilizes fresh outdoor air and filtration/sanitization systems in the air handlers to optimize and achieve indoor air quality.

Water: Occupants will have access to high-quality drinking water, which will be tested and filtered to meet current health standards.

Nourishment: Healthy eating habits are encouraged by providing occupants with healthier food choices and signage to learn about nutrient quality. Tables and chairs allow occupants to sit down, relax and recharge. Rose-Hulman officials also are encouraging better eating habits and food culture throughout campus.

Light: Exterior window performance and shading device design reduce glare while providing views to the outdoors and daylight through every habitable space. Interior light fixtures and controls minimize disruption to the occupant’s circadian rhythm and provide optimal lighting levels, all working to improve occupant energy, mood and productivity.

Fitness: The three-story staircase in the center of the building encourages physical activity and provides the opportunity for chance encounters and interaction. A [kinetic art installation titled “Depth of Field”](#) responds to movement and time of day and will attract admiring visitors throughout the campus.

Comfort: Furniture and equipment choices along with temperature controls have addressed ergonomic, visual, acoustic, and thermal comfort, creating an indoor environment that is distraction-free, productive and soothing.

Mind: Classrooms and laboratories surrounding a lobby area on each floor will provide opportunities for personal relaxation and interaction. There also are several meeting rooms for students and teams to collaborate and reflect upon their design projects and other academic activities. Art installations, furniture and material selections, and an outside courtyard all aim to reduce stress while supporting mental and emotional health by incorporating elements of biophilia and nurturing human's innate connection to nature.

According to the IWBI, WELL Certification concepts are grounded in a body of evidence-based research that explores the connection between buildings, where people spend more than 90% of their time, and the health and well-being impacts of those buildings on occupants.

After its grand opening, the New Academic Building's operations will complete rigorous testing and a final evaluation by Green Business Certification Inc., a third-party certification body for WELL, to ensure the building meets all of IWBI's Version 1 WELL Core & Shell Certification performance requirements.

The building's construction was managed by Garmong Construction Services of Terre Haute. Several subcontractors and local laborers were involved in the project since the summer of 2019.

The project was supported through a \$15 million lead gift from an anonymous donor, along with other individual and family donors, as part of the Mission Driven Campaign for Rose-Hulman.

About Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Founded in 1874, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is dedicated to preparing its students with the world's best undergraduate science, engineering and mathematics education in an environment infused with innovation, intellectual rigor and individualized attention. The institute is consistently recognized nationally as an elite STEM school for distinctions that include faculty excellence, return on investment, value-added, and career services. Career placement is near 100 percent year after year. Located in Terre Haute, Indiana, Rose-Hulman has an enrollment of approximately 2,000 undergraduate students and nearly 100 graduate students. Learn more at www.rose-hulman.edu.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

Rose-Hulman President Robert Coons can discuss health and wellness design aspects of the New Academic Building. On-campus, Zoom or telephone interviews can be arranged, depending upon President Coons' availability, by contacting Dale Long, director of media relations, at 812-877-8418 or dale.long@rose-hulman.edu

IMAGE ATTACHMENT DESCRIPTIONS

A Dropbox with exterior and interior images showcasing aspects of the New Academic Building is available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rglxxvmo6hddv83/AABrxCE7bxkSvs70drUWO5zia?dl=0>

Please credit: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology/Bryan Cantwell

ROSE-HULMAN B-ROLL VIDEO

A Dropbox with a video package revealing aspects of the New Academic Building is available at:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3yegjmbrddpivqh/AABoUWW_U4R0LKdJiKtDqeTia?dl=0

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