

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE BUILDING

THE PROJECT

Tennessee Tech intends to improve space for three science departments – Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Science, as well as interdisciplinary sciences. Each department is currently located in their own building. These buildings no longer support the departments' programs and research. The buildings were conceived, designed, and constructed prior to this time of rapid changes in the disciplines, in the curriculum, technology, and pedagogy. The existing buildings are inflexible and in poor condition.

Dober Lidsky Mathey was engaged by the University to help the science faculty articulate a vision and to define the spaces that will be necessary to achieve that vision. A facility program for a new science building will be the outcome, located on a site identified in the Campus Master Plan.

CHALLENGE

The challenge was to help the University decide which departments should have space within the new building. The various possible departments and units that were originally considered were: Biology—Wild Life and Fishery Science, Molecular Biology/Genetics; Chemistry—Biochem, Forensics; Chemical Engineering; Earth Science; Environmental Science; and the Water Center. Another issue that needed to be addressed is what will happen to the vacated spaces and buildings once the new building is available.

Numerous meetings were held with the departments as well as with a committee that was charged with the responsibility to guide the discussion beyond the needs of individual departments. Dober Lidsky Mathey made six visits to campus and helped to define the new building and articulate the departments' programmatic needs and aspirations for appropriate space for their current and anticipated instructional and research initiatives. The program is not a wish list of spaces but a data-driven, carefully vetted and justified description of need.

The new building, with its space and programs, will:

- strengthen and enhance student learning opportunities
- encourage cross-disciplinary growth and interaction in the molecular sciences
- support the Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Science departments and facilitate the realization of the pedagogical and research visions of these departments

- provide facilities to support interdisciplinary initiatives of the departments and programs both within the building and with the sciences in general

SOLUTION

As the vision and concept for this building and for the departments became more concise, the facility program for this building became clearer as well. The Cell and Molecular Biology faculty will relocate from Pennebaker, the entire Chemistry department will relocate from Foster, and some interdisciplinary research and Earth Science space from Kittrell.

Summary of the Facility Program

| Department | Programmed NASF |
|--|-----------------|
| Biology – Interdisciplinary Research and Instructional Space | 12,450 |
| Chemistry – Interdisciplinary Research and Instructional Space | 51,240 |
| Interdisciplinary Research and Earth Science | 1,500 |
| Shared Science & Classrooms | 22,060 |
| Total | 87,250 |

RESULTS

The budget has been approved by the State and the Tennessee Board of Regents has started the process for selecting the architectural design team.



SITE LOCATION

REFERENCE

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